

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support
the continued
operation of
public radio
station KRNM in
the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Home Surgery

Architect Stephen Muse has spent the past 25 years performing what he calls corrective surgery on homes.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING...
Page 11



Particle Collider

Engineers fitted the last major piece on a nuclear particle accelerator under the Swiss-French border.

WORLD...Page 18



Harry Laddie

Prince Harry wanted to be "one of the lads," an ordinary soldier sharing risk and hardship with his men.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

'REL-P report should have been verified by key people' PAGE 3
NMC to seek improvements through exit surveys. PAGE 5

Govt seeking data to back up US Labor on wage hike

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial says his administration is working with local employers to back up the federal government's finding that further minimum wage increases would harm the Commonwealth's economy.

The governor, in a letter to U.S. Virgin Islands Rep. Donna Christensen, said that he agrees with the U.S. Department of Labor that the six months since the first 50-cent increase did not provide a long enough period to assess definitively the economic impact of the minimum wage hike.

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FAMILY FUN DAY

Little Miss CNMI Kayla B. Borja hands out free cotton candy to children during the 2008 Family Fun Day at the Susupe Civic Center Saturday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

'Land alienation protects interests of NMI residents'

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com

2 ex-RP presidents join protest rally

By OLIVER TEVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Two former Philippine presidents, once bitter foes, joined tens of thousands of protesters at a rally Friday to press for President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's resignation over a raging corruption scandal.

It was the largest crowd yet since Arroyo's latest crisis erupted weeks ago when the Philippine Senate heard testimony, broadcast on live television, that linked her husband to multimillion-dollar kickbacks in a government telecommunications deal.

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Atalig

Marianas descent and to protect land ownership from foreigners.

Article XII, Atalig said, "protects the interests of our own present and future local people. And I disagree wholeheartedly with those people who are blaming Article XII as the major setback of all economic development going on here because that is certainly not so."

Atalig claims he first introduced Article XII during the first Constitutional Convention some 20 years ago as a way to stipulate that the acquisition and permanent and long-term interest in real property within the Commonwealth is restricted to persons of Northern

See SABLAN on Page 4



Former Presidents Corazon Aquino, left, and Joseph Estrada wave to the crowd as they join a rally calling for the resignation of Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Friday, Feb. 29, 2008, in Manila's financial district of Makati. AP

Around the CNMI



CONCERT FUNDRAISER

San Isidro Saipan committee members and officials gather for a photo during the successful concert at the Garapan Central Park Thursday night featuring local artists. The event was in celebration of the San Isidro Fiesta on Rota in March.



Former congressman Candy Taman entertains the crowd with a song presentation during a concert at the Garapan Central Park Thursday night in celebration of the San Isidro Fiesta on Rota in March.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



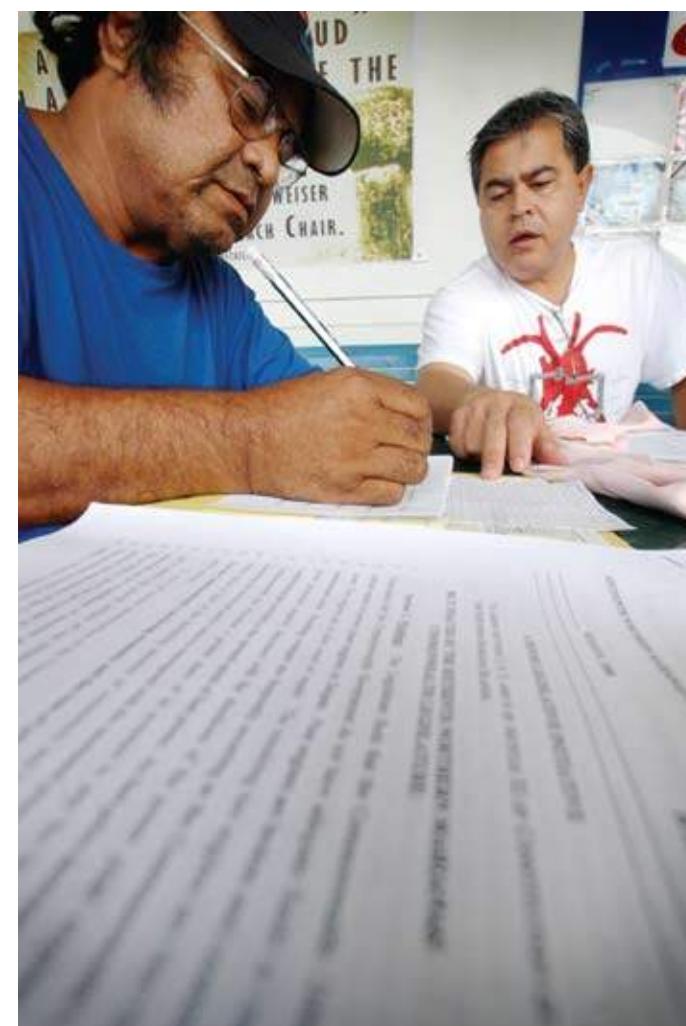
POET LAUREATES

Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities

Fifth Annual Sengebau Poetry Competition Junior Division winner Lallane Gui-ao of Hopwood Junior High and Senior Division winner

Nicole Sonia Castro of Marianas Baptist Academy hold their plaque after the awarding ceremony at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center amphitheater Thursday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



INITIATIVES SURVEY

Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider explains to Martin Nelson the five House Legislative Initiatives H.L.I 16-3, H.L.I 16-4, H.L.I 16-5, H.L.I 16-6 and H.L.I 16-7, during a survey at the Price Costco Saturday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



MIFICPA SEMINAR

CNMI Board of Accountancy chair David Burger gestures as he delivers his presentation on topics such as the overview of the preparation of Form 1040CM-Individual Income Tax Return and Form 1120CM-Corporate Income Tax Return, recent updates and developments prescribed by the CNMI Revenue & Taxation as well as the United States Internal Revenue Code on Corporate Taxation during a seminar hosted by the Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**

**AMENDED INVITATION FOR BID
NO. 01**

This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.

IFB NO.: NMHC - IFB08-006A – ROTA
NMHC - IFB08-006B - TINIAN
FOR: Building Maintenance of Section 8 Housing Units in Rota and Tinian

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested, licensed companies in the Commonwealth to provide building maintenance services for its Section 8 Housing Units in Rota and Tinian.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at any of the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; or Songsong Village, Rota, beginning February 27, 2008, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

Two (2) separate mandatory Pre-Bid Conferences will each be held on the Islands of Rota and Tinian. In Rota, the Conference will be held at the NMHC Field Office located on the 1st Floor of the Sunset Villa Hotel in Sonton, Rota on Tuesday, March 18, 2008, at 10:30 a.m., and in Tinian, the Conference will be held at the NMHC Field Office located in the Juan King Building in San Jose Village at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 19, 2008. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Bidders are reminded that this announcement covers two (2) separate bids—one for Rota, and one for Tinian.

Sealed bids shall be identified on outside of the envelope by Invitation for Bids No. NMHC IFB08-006A - Building Maintenance for Section 8 Housing Units (ROTA)* or NMHC IFB08-006B - Building Maintenance for Section 8 Housing Units (TINIAN)*. An original and three (3) copies of the bid must be submitted to the Procurement and Supply Office, Lower Base, Saipan no later than 10:00 am, **March 27, 2008**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for the receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 am local time, **March 27, 2008**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service, the official government postal service of a foreign country, or a commercial courier, no later than **March 27, 2008**, and must be received no later than **April 7, 2008**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 am, local time **April 8, 2008**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 am, local time on **March 27, 2008**.

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$3.55 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of \$.50 per hour as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or the CNMI Department of Labor until the hourly rate equals that of the Federal Minimum Wage of \$7.50 per hour.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority business and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in Rota and Tinian.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

Should you require additional information, please direct inquiries to Edith C. Fejeran, Office Manager, via email to efejeran@nmhc.gov.mp or facsimile at (670) 234-9021.

Tax credit for teachers' classroom expenses?

Educators will be able to avail of a tax deduction for their out-of-pocket expenses in the classrooms if a bill becomes law.

Rep. Oscar M. Babauta has proposed legislation allowing principals and teachers to receive credit against their wage and salary tax or earnings tax for classroom expenses that they pay using their personal money.

The maximum credit that an educator can receive is \$500 a year. This includes expenses for books, instructional materi-

als, and equipment, including computer software, used in the classroom.

The bill will benefit principals, teachers, instructors, and teacher aides working in public and private schools, from pre-kindergarten to grade 12.

To become law, the bill must be passed by both houses of the Legislature and approved by the governor.

The bill mandates the Department of Finance to promulgate rules and regulations within 90

days of the proposed legislation being signed into law.

Currently, the educational tax credit program applies to donations to the Commonwealth Museum of History and Culture, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities, Public School System, Northern Marianas College, Joeten Kiyu Public Library, and other educational institutions granted tax exempt status by the Division of Revenue and Taxation. (*Agnes E. Donato*)

(See Table)

achievement report.

"He has been with us for years. He is no stranger to the school system," said Quitugua.

Burger said in a telephone interview that he does not know the process Chesswess and Lee had used to conduct their study. However, as far as the reliability and validity of PSS data, "they are exceptionally high in the CNMI."

The REL-P researchers had provided a table to show percentile rank scores and percentage proficient or advanced for middle school mathematics in the CNMI. (*See Table*)

The "—" indicates that data is not available.

The table above indicates both the scores of the Standards-Based Assessment, which is a criterion-referenced test and the scores of the SAT-10 which is a norm-referenced.

PSS does not administer the SAT-10 to seventh graders.

The SBA test was locally developed by PSS. It was designed to test the standards of the board-approved standards.

"It is used to measure the knowledge of the learning of the CNMI students according to the PSS standards and benchmarks," said Tigilau.

Tigilau added the SAT-10 is only administered to students in the third, fifth, sixth, eighth, ninth, and eleventh grades; while the SBA test is administered to students in the fourth, seventh, and tenth grades.

The reason there is an absence of proficient or advanced percentage is because the SAT-10 does not report proficiency levels, whereas the SBA does.

According to Quitugua, a report can be done to collect such data; however it costs too much for PSS to obtain such report.

She also explained that there is talk of administering the SAT-10 to all grade levels but this will cost too much.

It costs the PSS \$170,000 annually just to administer the SAT-10 to the sixth grade levels.

"We have to work within the budget to really get the kind of report we need," said Quitugua.

Torres shared that, although the SAT-10 percentile rank

REL-P report should have been verified by key people, says PSS

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
Rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System said the status report put together by the Regional Educational Laboratory in Hawaii indicating a lack of data and assurances of data quality relating to the CNMI's middle school mathematics should have been verified by key people first before being compiled into a report.

The data study conducted by Pacific Resources for Education and Learning researchers Roger Chesswas, Ph.D., and Lesley Lee, Ph.D., indicated that "student achievement in mathematics is lower in the CNMI and in the Pacific Region than in most parts of the U.S."

The study had also concluded that there are gaps in the summaries of findings on middle school mathematics achievement in the CNMI because of the lack of data and assurances of the data's quality.

Jackie Quitugua, deputy commissioner on curriculum and instruction at PSS, said that PREL actually has all the PSS data on student academic achievement. As a matter of fact, "they have access to our report" as "they are the ones who help us put it together."

Quitugua, along with PSS math specialist Brian A. Torres and curriculum, instruction, and assessment coordinator Fasefulu Tigilau, gave the *Saipan Tribune* a peek at the student academic achievement report.

The report covers a multitude of information that begins with overall demographics, student achievement, the No Child Left Behind student participation testing, and adequate yearly progress, among other vital information.

Quitugua explained the report is part of school system's way of communicating with the federal government "to let them know how we are doing with our achievement."

Dr. Donald Burger, director of Pacific Assessment Systems & Services at PREL and who also has served as the PSS facilitator, helped put together the PSS student academic

Year	Grade	Percentile Rank Score	Percentage proficient or advanced
2003/04	8	36	—
2004/05	8	39	—
2005/06	8	35	—
2004/05	7	—	36
2005/06	7	—	38

scores are indeed annually below the national average of 50 percent, there is clear indication that students have been performing better than the year before.

For school year 2006/07, the

SAT-10 percentile rank score was at 37 percent.

"The actual goal we made for that school year was at 35 percent. But we went over that. The point here is that even though we are

below the national level, we still met our goal," Torres said.

Quitugua said that the data the PSS had been collecting has been consistently put together since 1998.

"What we have done differently in 2006 and 2007 is that we set goals—a target percentage to meet each year. And clearly, it's been meeting every year. And we're very pleased to show that," she said.

She added that there are already a number of schools in the CNMI that have already been meeting the 2010 goal, which is at 50 percent.

"We have the report and it's

right here," said Quitugua.

She added that copies of the student academic achievement reports were also distributed to CNMI school principals.

"When we have a meeting or a discussion on student academic achievement, this is where we turn to. So what REL-P had stated was really a surprise to us," Quitugua said pointing to the report.

"What they should have done is verify with the key people who work with the student achievement. But we're not about blaming or shaming people. We just want to make that clarification," said Quitugua.

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JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Fitial insists wage hike detrimental to economy

From Page 1

He added, however, that the administration believes, as suggested by the U.S. Labor report, that the past increase did have, and future increases will have, serious adverse effects on the CNMI's struggling economy.

Fitial reported that the CNMI government is now canvassing CNMI employers and others to provide information to congressional committees considering the minimum wages in the Northern Marianas and American Samoa.

"We believe these data will convincingly support the proposition that the next increase should be postponed," Fitial

told Christensen, who heads the House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs.

On Feb. 22, the subcommittee conducted a hearing in American Samoa to give a chance to the territory's government and business leaders to voice their opinion on the recent and future minimum wage hikes.

CNMI leaders were not invited to that hearing, but they had their chance to speak at a separate hearing held by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources in Washington, D.C. last Thursday.

At the hearing, Fitial called on Congress to halt further increases to the CNMI's wage floor. The same message was

conveyed by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio, on the other hand, called for capping the wage hike at \$4.05 and keeping it for the next two years.

Federal minimum wage law applied to American Samoa and the Northern Marianas last year. Prior to that, the CNMI determined its own minimum wage, and a special industry committee set the minimum wage for the American Samoa.

The initial increases of 50 cents went into effect on July 24, 2007, in American Samoa and July 25, 2007, in the Com-

monwealth. In addition, minimum wages to the islands will increase by 50 cents until they reach the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour.

For the CNMI, the minimum wage was increased by 50 cents an hour to \$3.55 on July 25, 2007, and will rise to \$7.25 an hour by 2015.

For American Samoa, current minimum wages vary by industry, with the most significant being the minimum wage for the tuna cannery industry, which is currently \$3.76 an hour, reflecting the initial 50-cent increase on July 24, 2007. The minimum wage for American Samoa will increase across the board to \$7.25 an hour by 2014.

Sablan: What kind of investors does Article XII attracts?

From Page 1

If that is indeed the case, "then why then do you continue to see investors coming from China and Taiwan still expressing interest in building millions of dollars worth of casinos on Tinian?"

"Not only that, you drive along the roads here on Saipan and you will continue to see new Korean buildings being built," he added.

"Even thought they're empty, it's the continuation of the construction of new buildings worth millions of dollars [that matters]," Atalig said.

"You cannot kill Article XII simply because Japanese investors said no, or just because one particular investor is trying to change this Article XII. That will simply destroy the interest of the people on the NMI and in particular the younger generations."

"What we need to do is look for investors in China or Taiwan

who have been showing interest in development over here. You go to Palau, the major investors there are from Taiwan," he said.

Rep. Tina Sablan said it may be true that Article XII does not hinder development because there are still investors who are willing to sign leases for land "but the question that has not been asked is, 'What kind of investors does Article XII ensure we attract?'"

"Who would be attracted to a place in which they are unable to own land, and in which there is a climate of lawlessness, corruption, and economic desperation? In short: the kinds of businesses with no interest in a long-term investment in the Commonwealth, with minimum to no regard for the law or the environment, or the community into which they have entered," Sablan said.

She describes these kinds of businesses as those that will enlist the partnership of "unscrupulous

local representatives to gain access to dishonest government officials and unfair perks."

Sablan was quick to add that such description does not necessarily apply to all who has ever done business in the Commonwealth. However, she added, she will bet that for every questionable so-called "development" project, "we will find a chain of shady businesspeople, linked up with dishonest local representatives, linked up with crooked government officials."

"What intelligent, legitimate businessperson in his right mind would be seriously interested in making long-term investments in a community whose government doesn't enforce its own laws fairly and equitably, and doesn't even allow him to own the property in which he invests?" she asked.

The CNMI Constitution only allows non-indigenous people to lease public lands for a maximum of 40 years and private

lands for 55 years.

Section 805 of the Covenant requires the Commonwealth to maintain this land alienation provision for 25 years following the termination of the Trusteeship. This mandatory 25-year period will end in 2011. After that date, the commonwealth may continue, alter, or suspend Article XII.

"I think it will be disaster to remove Article XII where in fact it is the only protection that provides for the local people and their future generations," Atalig said.

He said that Article XII "is very sentimental to my part because I was the one who introduced Article XII during the first Constitutional Convention."

He added that the future generations are the ones that people should be concerned about. "You don't want to start seeing foreigners owning land, because what then will be left for your children?"

Cory, Erap call for Arroyo's resignation in massive rally

From Page 1

The crowd included former opponents ex-President Corazon Aquino, who ushered in democracy when the country's first "people power" revolt ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, and former President Joseph Estrada, who was forced out over massive corruption by a second "people power" uprising in 2001.

"I thought my work was done because I am already old," said Aquino, 75. "But this is what the times ask for, for us to unite so that the deceit will end and we will find out the truth. Thankfully there are still many of us shouting, 'Gloria, enough, resign already!'"

Aquino used to be one of Arroyo's biggest supporters before breaking away in 2005 amid allegations that the president had rigged the 2004 election.

Soldiers and police went on high alert, setting up checkpoints at major highways as demonstrators braved a drizzle and gathered in Manila's finan-

cial district. Police estimated turnout at 15,000, while organizers estimated the crowd at about 80,000.

People began dispersing at 8 p.m., when the rally permit expired.

The rally was organized by a loose coalition of opposition groups, business people, left-wing activists, Roman Catholic church-backed organizations and a large evangelical group, the Jesus is Lord Movement.

The crowd included former opponents who, like Aquino and Estrada, have united to oppose Arroyo, who has fended off three impeachment bids and four coup plots in seven years in power.

"No single group or person claims credit in leading this initiative," said Renato Reyes, secretary-general of the left-wing alliance Bayan.

Mrs. Gloria Arroyo made this possible. Her bankrupt and corrupt regime provided the urgency for everyone to set aside their differences and struggle together for truth and justice."

In southern Iligan city, about 1,000 Muslim and Christian protesters—including lawyers, teachers, priests, nuns and Muslim guerrillas in civilian clothes—gathered in a public plaza to call for Arroyo's ouster.

Smaller anti-Arroyo rallies were held elsewhere in the country.

Arroyo's latest trouble stems from allegations of corruption in a US\$330 million (€223 million) broadband deal with China's ZTE Corp., which she was forced to cancel.

Former consultants for the telecommunications contract have said the president's husband and the country's elections chief—who has since quit—benefited from huge kickbacks linked to the aborted contract. Both men have denied wrongdoing.

Arroyo has not directly addressed the allegations against her and her husband but says she opposes corruption and that her family does no business with the government. ZTE also has denied the allegations.

Aquino said growing public discontent over the scandal could force Arroyo to quit.

"I am growing optimistic because I can see that more and more Filipinos are taking part in the effort to find the truth," Aquino said. "What came out in the Senate hearings was really shocking."

Arroyo, who has ordered an investigation by the Justice Department and the government ombudsman, inaugurated the country's first public aquarium Friday and attended Mass at police headquarters.

The powerful military and Roman Catholic bishops—both of whom played key roles in the two "people power" revolts—have refused to join calls for Arroyo to resign, although both have had to deal with dissension among their ranks for not doing so.

Military chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon warned troops they would face arrest if they joined the rally, saying such involvement could threaten the country's nascent democracy.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Tinian community marks "Read Across America"

On March 3, 2008, the children of Tinian, in conjunction with National Education Association, will be celebrating the annual event called "Read Across America," a national literacy movement dedicated to reaching out to all readers of ages and cultures.

To kick off the year-long reading program, each school-aged child will receive 4-6 books. These books were donated by First Book except for the shipping costs (have to be borne by the applicant), Youth Coalition. The books were distributed throughout the schools on Tinian with the help of parent and community volunteers. The culminating event for the first month will be on April 12, 2008.

If you have a child that has not received any books or if you want to volunteer, contact Ofelia Khan or Maria H. Aguon at Northern Marianas College at 433-0658 or Frances H. Diaz at 433-3800 or email: diazfrancesh@hotmail.com. The books will be packed and delivered to your home. (PR)

Developmental disabilities awareness month

The Tinian Disability Coalition said that Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month activities have already begun with a Thanksgiving Mass on March 1, 2008, at the San Jose Church. The event will continue with workshops on March 5-6, 2008 at Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. The activities will end on Saturday, March 8 with a Buddy Walk and picnic afterwards at Tachogna Beach. All families and friends are encouraged to participate. These events are sponsored by the CNMI Developmental Disabilities Council, CNMI Cancer Association and First Lady's Vision. Call CNMI DD Council at 664-7000 or Community Outreach Program at 433-2683. (PR)

Fishery council sets meeting

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee will convene 9am to 5pm on March 3, 2008, and 8:30am to 5pm on March 4 to 6, 2008, at the Council office, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu.

The SSC will discuss and make recommendations to the Council regarding management of non-longline pelagic fisheries, Hawaii bottomfish fishery and longline fishery for swordfish, Mariana archipelago longline and purse-seine closed areas, and American Samoa longline program modification and purse-seine closed area.

The Council is the policy-making agency for fisheries management in federal waters (generally, 3 to 200 miles offshore) of the U.S. Pacific Islands. For more information and agenda, go to www.wpcouncil.org, ph. (808) 522-8220 or email info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov. (PR)

Zoning Board solicits suggested changes to zoning law

The Zoning Board said that it will soon be evaluating suggestions for changes to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007. A draft package of proposed changes will be circulated for public review, revised, and then forwarded to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for their consideration.

The public can help the Board by sending recommendations for changing the Zoning Law text or maps (rezones) by March 14. Submit recommendations to staff@zoning.gov.mp, or mail or deliver them to the Zoning Office.

Copies of the law are available at the zoning website (www.zoning.gov.mp) or can be viewed or purchased from the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan. The Zoning Office will be pleased to answer any questions about the law. (PR)

Parenting, childhood disorders seminar

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities will be celebrating March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. This year's theme is "SUCCESS-When Doors Open-We succeed!"

On Monday, March 3, 2008, CGC psychiatrist Dr. Willie Gutowski will conduct a presentation on Normal Parenting Issue and Common Childhood Disorders. All parents and teachers are encouraged to take this opportunity to attend this presentation.

To register, call the Council office at 664-7000/7001/7003/7005/7041 or fax registration form to 664-7030. (PR)

NMC to seek improvements through exit surveys

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting a more comprehensive exit survey among its graduating seniors in an effort to improve its existing academic and federal programs.

During a forum on NMC's accreditation, NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez said that the CNMI faces "big chal-

lenges" with NMC's accounting majors.

"I will tell you honestly that we have received feedback from our community that graduates out of the accounting program are not making it," Fernandez said.

With the exit survey, NMC will be able to track the student's assessment and progress, she said. "Of course another reason it is very critical is be-

cause we want to know if you are successful in your job."

Director of Institutional Advancement Mark Mendiola said an exit survey has always been done at NMC; however, a more comprehensive one will be formulated.

The graduate survey includes a list of questions that will let NMC know where their students are going.

Surveys will ask if the student

has a job now, has a job lined up, plans on transferring to other institutions and has future plans. The survey will also include information from the graduates on how they thought NMC had provided for their academics and services.

"We ask that students fill out the survey and then submit it to

us. Because what we do with that is take all of that information as it gives us an idea of the students coming out of NMC," said Fernandez.

She added that the survey will also help determine how many of the students

altogether are in the job market, how many are looking for a job,

and how many want to go into higher education.

Mendiola said the survey would also help assess NMC programs: "what areas we are good at or need more improvement on."

The graduate survey is part of NMC's assessment and review.

"This is another key component in our assessment that will assist NMC maintain its full accreditation," said Mendiola.



Fernandez

Nominees sought for Young Conservationist Award

The International Ranger Federation and IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas are calling for nominations for the prestigious Young Conservationist Award.

The award aims to recognize and raise awareness of the outstanding contributions made to the management of protected areas, and leadership shown, by young conservationists. It also seeks to encour-

ON THE NET

International Ranger Federation: www.int-ranger.net
World Commission on Protected Areas: www.iucn.org/wcpa

age young professionals and help them develop networks by inviting winners to join WCPA.

Nominations/applications are invited for/from young people working in conservation and actively managing protected areas. This includes all people working in protected areas, such as (but not limited to) rangers, interpreters, people working with local communities, policy makers, scientists, and, includes people working for government agencies, the private sector, non-government organizations, local communities, etc.

Nominations/applications must be submitted for/by:

young field practitioners (under the age of 35) for any outstanding contribution (single incident or sustained/ongoing commitment) toward protected area management (from a local to a global scale)

The young professional's work must show:

- Extreme dedication to protected areas
- Capacity to deal with adversity
- Working over and above the normal call of duty.

The Young Conservationist Award Review Panel will judge the degree to which the candidate demonstrates:

- Passion, dedication and commitment
- Degree of innovation (thinking outside of the box)

- Self sacrifice (time, costs, physical, bravery, etc)
- Scale/extent/magnitude/impact of contribution (area and duration).

Submissions:

- an updated CV (maximum two pages)
- letters from referees (maximum of three)
 - a short submission (maximum of 450 words) on the nominee's contribution, with special reference on how this contribution benefited/s and improved/s protected area management.

Benefits for the awardee:

- IRF/WCPA Young Conservationist Award Certificate
- Membership in WCPA, the world's premier network of protected area experts
- Publicity on WCPA and IRF websites

Applications should be sent preferably via e-mail to:

Djinn Pourkiani
Programme on Protected Areas
The World Conservation Union (IUCN)
Rue Mauverney 28
Gland, CH-1196, Switzerland
Phone: +41 (22) 999-0161
Fax: +41 (22) 999 0025
E-mail: djinn.pourkiani@iucn.org
Deadline for submissions: 28 April, 2008

David Zeller
President
International Ranger Federation
David Sheppard
Head, Programme on Protected Areas
The World Conservation Union (IUCN)



DC SOJOURN

Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio, center, poses with Division of Environmental Quality's Nonpoint Source branch manager Fran Castro, left, and public information officer Reina Camacho in a souvenir photo during their visit to Marianas House in Washington D.C.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Taotao Tano meeting set

The Taotao Tano CNMI Association Inc. will have a special board meeting on March 5, 2008, at 6pm, at the Canton Restaurant.

Among other things, the association will be discussing S. 2483 or the pending omnibus bill on federalization of CNMI immigration, the minimum wage issue, H.L.I. 16-03, 04 & 5 relating to amendments to the CNMI constitution, DES Employment Section/Unemployment, DPL land lease, and DPH sanitation and dialysis. (PR)

DEQ red-flags 10 Saipan beaches

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on 10 sites on Saipan and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The agency said that samples collected from DPW Channel Bridge, S.Puerto Rico Dump, Hafa Adai Hotel, Hafa Adai Drainage, Garapan Beach Drainage, Marine Beach, Hidden Beach, N. Laulau Beach, S. Laul-

au Beach, and Unai Dangkulo on Saipan contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria—enterococci—that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzed samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 50 locations on Saipan, 10 on Tinian, 12 on Rota and a total of 11 samples from the shores surrounding Managaha.

The agency welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. (DEQ)

Sunday Brunch

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and enjoy the island's best variety of fresh
cuisine prepared before your eyes at our
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- Authentic Chinese Dishes
- Peking Duck Station
- Extensive Seafood Buffet Featuring Crabs Legs, Oysters and more

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- Italian Pasta Station
- Okonomiyaki Station (Japanese Pizza)
- California Mexican Station
- Dessert Buffet with Crepe Station

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Peking Duck Station
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VIP/Local Discount Applies

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Olympic speech

Run, high-jump, hurdle or kayak—but whatever you do, don't speak. That's the message some countries are sending to their athletes ahead of the Beijing Olympics.

Last month, the Belgian Olympic Committee announced that it will not permit its athletes to make political statements, verbally or sartorially, in Olympic venues. The British Olympic Association similarly muzzled its athletes, who will be expelled from the team if they talk about political issues anywhere at all. The New Zealand Olympic Committee has also waffled about exactly how much freedom of expression its athletes will enjoy.

The decisions must please China, which has been condemning human rights groups for "politicizing" the Games. The Belgian, British and New Zealand committees argue that the gag orders are just meant to uphold the Olympic charter, which declares that "no kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda is permitted" at the Games.

It would be nice if the Olympics could transcend politics, but that has never happened and never will. The Olympic charter is chock-full of political goals and principles, including feminism, environmentalism and world peace. And from the 1936 Nazi-hosted Games to the 1964 exclusion of apartheid South Africa to the 1968 black-power salute to the 1980 U.S.-led and 1984 Soviet-led boycotts, the Olympics have always been infused with politics and human rights concerns.

In making its Olympic bid, China repeatedly argued that placing the Games in Beijing would "help the development of human rights." Yet China's human rights record has in many ways worsened (as in the appalling arrest of dissident Hu Jia recently), and China has continued to abet repression in Burma and Sudan. Belgium's and Britain's orders to athletes not to comment on China's poor behavior may actually embolden Beijing. They also set a bad precedent for authoritarian regimes that may host the Games in the coming years—including Russia, which is hosting the 2014 Winter Olympics.

The worst example of all is set for Western democracies. These gag orders call into question the West's belief in freedom of speech, a value that democracies should be promoting, not discounting, in China. So far, Olympic committees in Australia, Canada and the United States have said they'll allow their athletes to speak freely. We hope other democracies will follow suit and allow their athletes to express themselves—about China or anything else.

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Two-year hiatus on minimum wage hikes

Editor's Note: The following is the statement of Pedro A. Tenorio, Resident Representative of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to Washington D.C., before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Feb. 28, 2008.

Thank you for holding this hearing and for allowing me to testify about the impact an increased minimum wage will have on the economy of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. I am very appreciative of this Committee, its leadership, and its members for their continued advocacy for the territories on the subject of minimum wage. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank officials from the U.S. Department of Labor for not only the timely completion of their report mandated by Public Law 110-28, but also for their honesty and objectivity. At the outset, I would like to state that I agree completely with the report when it describes our economy as very fragile and that the quality and quantity of data on our workforce is inadequate.

I believe that it is important to note that the study does not address the potential impact of the second increase and whether or not there should be a second increase. It instead highlights a number of potential negative impacts that could result from the implementation of the scheduled minimum wage increases. However, to quote the study "the lack of such data for American Samoa and the CNMI significantly impairs efforts to measure or to project the impacts of scheduled minimum wage increases for these territories."

I feel that the implementation of Public Law 110-28 and its scheduled minimum wage increases in the Northern Marianas is a lot like setting the thermostat for your heater or air conditioner in the dark. If you set it too high—you get hot, and if you set it too low—you get cold. It is very hard to select wisely when you are guessing or simply cannot see what you are doing. This is my impression of the findings of the Report.

If the minimum wage increases too much or too rapidly then we can easily be faced with the loss of jobs and increased inflation which will only add to our economic problems.

If we increase the minimum wage too slowly or not at all we can expect an increase in the number of residents who seek employment outside of the CNMI due to higher wages elsewhere. This ongoing exodus includes experienced and skilled workers and recent high school and college graduates who are finding few well paying local opportunities.

Mr. Chairman, I am greatly concerned about the lack of reliable, consistent and meaningful data on the CNMI's workforce including earnings, number of hours worked, number of jobs available, and number of unemployed residents or non-residents. We cannot truly know the impact of the first or future minimum wage increases

By PEDRO A. TENORIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pedro A. Tenorio is the Resident Representative of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to Washington D.C.



without accurate data in these areas.

In formulating this testimony and my position on this subject I have had to consider many things. Among them are:

1. The need to reduce our reliance on non-resident workers in the private sector and provide opportunities for residents. For almost two decades, non-resident workers have outnumbered resident workers in the private sector, and although our private sector wages are low by U.S. standards, they were considerably higher than wages in the non-resident workers' home countries. Wages must rise in order for private sector jobs to appeal to resident workers.

2. The need to reduce the size of the CNMI Government to coincide with the reduction in tax revenues. Unfortunately, many of our residents will choose to leave our islands rather than take employment in the private sector where wages are consistently lower. The Labor Department study reports that, currently, 68% of the CNMI workforce earns less than \$4.99 per hour. Resolving the discrepancy between private and public sector wages must take time in order to prevent further economic upheaval.

3. The impact low wages will have on the overall need for food stamps and the growing number who would be eligible for Medicaid. Both food stamps and Medicaid are capped and the matching requirement for Medicaid is already a burden on the local government.

4. The reality is that the decline in the garment industry has led to increased shipping costs, which have resulted in higher costs for consumer goods. Will higher wages lead to more inflation, or will it help balance it out due to increased purchasing power? While I cannot answer that question, I do believe there is something wrong when a minimum wage earner has to work more than an hour to purchase a gallon of gasoline.

5. The need to reduce the cost of business. An increase in the minimum wage adds to the already high cost of doing business in the CNMI. Many of our larger businesses are required to generate their own electricity and purify their water. Smaller businesses rely on the CNMI Government for utilities and pay extremely high rates for electricity and suffer through blackouts, brownouts, and un-

See TWO-YEAR on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

'Do not delay mandated minimum wage hikes'

Editor's Note: The following is the text of the written testimony submitted by the author before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, concerning minimum wage levels in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, on Feb. 28, 2008.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony to your Committee. I am the Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs.

This testimony is offered as a voice for those who have not been heard, those who are earning the minimum wage and cannot be present.

I support the current law as enacted, mandating incremental increases in the minimum wage of the CNMI. I oppose any delay.

The Commonwealth has a two-tiered economy.

The public sector is the largest employer, pays the highest wages in the Commonwealth, and the vast majority of its employees are citizens and permanent residents.

The private sector employs predominantly foreign guest workers in non-managerial positions, and relies heavily on the minimum wage to set pay scales. In fact, when benefits are factored in, the differences between similar positions in the public and private sectors are often extreme. This imbalance is one of the Commonwealth's most significant barriers to a sound economy.

Because of the disparity between private and public sector wage scales, there is little incentive for a citizen to seek employment in the private sector.

Additionally, because private sector employers find it more economical to hire a foreign guest worker, they have little incentive to recruit from the available labor pool of local citizens and permanent residents.

This has only served to perpetuate the Commonwealth's over-utilized reliance on inexpensive foreign labor.

As part of this testimony, I submit a study, completed May 30, 2007 by the Office of the Public Auditor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This contains hard data about private sector jobs and wages. Its findings have a bearing on the issue before you. Many of the questions raised but not answered by the January 2008 report from the U.S. Department of Labor, are illuminated here.

The January 2008 report from the US Department of Labor disclaims any conclusions that may be drawn from it.

I respectfully draw this Committee's attention to page 36: "The information vacuum continues to be an obstacle to an objective and comprehensive assessment of the economy and its productive capacity. The lack of such data are especially a barrier to assessing the current and future impact of the recent and scheduled increases in the minimum wage."

This statement, among others of similar content present in the report, bring into question the value of delaying the scheduled minimum wage increases while waiting for a new study. In fact, as stated in the report, by not delaying the increase, an incentive is created for the Commonwealth government to put "in place macroeconomic data collection and accounting systems technology capable of generating information on total output and its components on a monthly or quarterly basis." This would provide the data that would lend credibility to any new study, as borne out by the report's next sentence: "As a result, there is not a way to provide objective measures of productive capacity, capacity utilization, employment, wages or unemployment rates."

While I respect and appreciate the caliber of those interviewed and those compiling the US Department of Labor's report, it is also reasonable to point out that there is no interview of a person from the Commonwealth who earns the current minimum wage of \$3.55 per hour.

TWO-YEAR

From Page 6

drinkable, unreliable water. With these added costs, the CNMI has seen a number of businesses close and this trend is likely to continue if the prospects of earning a profit are minimal.

Sentiment in the CNMI regarding the second minimum wage increase, scheduled for May 25th, and future minimum wage increases is not as homogeneous as the Committee might be lead to believe. Over the last few weeks, my of-

fice has been inundated with faxes, e-mails, and letters from constituents who have asked me to support their position on the second increase. There are valid concerns about the business closures, loss of jobs, and the resulting loss of government revenue. These private sector concerns cannot be ignored. I have also heard from community activists, students, and parents, as well as some businessmen and a few legislators who all believe that the second increase is needed in order for the CNMI to move forward in our quest for a higher standard of living.

Minimum wage levels in the Commonwealth must increase in order for our citizens to be able to remain in the Commonwealth.

Historically and now even more, due to the loss of garment industry revenues, our public sector employment is excessive and job opportunities are shrinking. Citizens and permanent residents who are losing their employment in the public sector must either find employment in the private sector, or leave the Commonwealth for Guam or the 50 states.

It is true that job opportunities in the Commonwealth's private sector are dwindling as well. However, the majority of the jobs being lost are in the garment industry. The majority of garment industry employees are guest workers paid at the minimum wage. The unique nature of employment in the garment industry will distort any statistical data viewed from a Commonwealth-wide perspective.

Given that the garment industry will likely not exist in the Commonwealth by the end of 2008, the balance of private sector jobs will be in retail, tourism, and services. The employment opportunities that remain in the private sector are needed for citizens and permanent residents who are reaching adulthood, or leaving public sector employment.

Recently the Commonwealth Legislature has addressed the need

Under a continued program of artificially depressed wages, our current and future graduates who are not employed by the public sector have few choices; economic exile in Guam and the 50 states, join the U.S. military, reliance on family or social services, or sustaining themselves with a combination of low wage jobs and subsistence living.

to eliminate this extreme disparity between public and private sector employment opportunities. They enacted a sweeping reform of the labor laws, including provisions that have;

- Greatly expanded services to citizens and permanent residents seeking private sector employment.
- Increased incentives for private sector employers to recruit citizens and permanent residents.
- Strengthened enforcement of the citizen preference clauses of the labor law.

The issues of an excessively low minimum wage, over-employment in the public sector, high local unemployment, and the foreign guest worker program are all interrelated.

Incremental increases in the minimum wage is another critical factor in normalizing the labor market in the Commonwealth.

Until 2007, the minimum wage in the Commonwealth had not increased in over 10 years, and during that decade, inflation and the runaway prices of oil have chiseled away at the buying power of the wage earner. Meanwhile, employers realized larger and larger savings in personnel costs relative to the total cost of doing business.

Under a continued program of artificially depressed wages, our current and future graduates who are not employed by the public sector have few choices; economic exile in Guam and the 50 states,

Mr. Chairman, I have weighed my position on a second increase very carefully. Whatever decision is made will have a potentially devastating effect on one sector or another in the CNMI. However, as a pragmatist and a realist, and with all due respect, I simply do not believe that it is possible to enact legislation by May 24th to delay the second increase. Therefore, I would request the assistance of the committee in the following:

1. Pass legislation that will cap the minimum wage in the CNMI at \$4.05 an hour, the wage expected after the

implementation of the second increase, which would remain in effect for a period of two years. This will have provided workers in the CNMI with a total hourly increase of a dollar, which is a significant step toward a livable wage. This two-year hiatus would hopefully provide time for appropriate data collection tools to be developed and implemented so that reliable economic data would be available to evaluate impacts and guide decisions. This two-year period will also provide our business community the necessary time to restructure their business operations so

that they can remain in the CNMI.

2. Provide resources that will assist the CNMI and the Department of Labor to develop, acquire, and implement the necessary surveys or related data collection devices to adequately and accurately measure the impact of the first two increases on the CNMI economy, as well as determine the likely impact of future increases.

3. Assist us with resources to address our infrastructure crises so that we can reduce the cost of doing business in the CNMI, and provide breathing room for employers to pay higher wages.

By MARIA FRICA PANGELINAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Maria Frica T. Pangelinan is a senator in the 16th Northern Marianas Legislature and is chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs.

join the U.S. military, reliance on family or social services, or sustaining themselves with a combination of low wage jobs and subsistence living.

On a regular basis there are classified ads in our local papers advertising for skilled jobs such as graphic artists, masons, electricians, and accountants for \$3.55 an hour. Nowhere else in the United States could you find these skilled positions advertised for such stunningly low wages. The US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics report for May of 2006 lists the Mean hourly wage rates for these jobs as \$27.90, \$21.33, \$22.41, and \$29.17 per hour respectively.

My generation of post World War II parents have worked hard to pay for university level education for ourselves and our children only to have many feeling forced by economic concerns into life on the mainland. There are already thousands of Commonwealth citizens with good work experience and college degrees living in Guam and the 50 states. This is a tragic loss of our most valuable resource; our future, and it will continue as long as the minimum wage remains at such a low level.

The Commonwealth's economy will recover.

Tourism and the garment industry have been the Commonwealth's largest industries. Tourism, although currently depressed, is slowly showing some signs of recovery. Asia, and most notably China, is prospering, and the population base is so large that receiving even a tiny percentage of their tourists will allow the Commonwealth to do well.

Guam is preparing for the arrival of thousands of military personnel and their families from Okinawa. The Commonwealth is well placed to realize economic benefits, through tourism and military activities.

Increasing the minimum wage raises in decreasing increments, the wage levels above it. This is a fact proven by the historical data gathered from increases in the minimum wage in the 50 states.

Until the Commonwealth has a statistically sound basis for reporting economic data, study after study will serve no purpose except the continued delay of the desperately needed reform of the labor market in the Commonwealth for the good of its citizens and residents.

The citizens of the Commonwealth CNMI need incremental increases in the minimum wage.

I ask the good people of this Committee to consider that the wage increase we are discussing is from \$3.55 to \$4.05 per hour. Neither, after taxes, will buy a single gallon of gas.

The majority of our elected officials have, to date, been unable or unwilling to address the issue of a realistic minimum wage level, even during the economic boom of the 1990's. Despite the sincere efforts of a few individuals, who were willing to stand up to political pressure exerted by private sector employers, the minimum wage has remained unchanged until the recent passage of the federal law under discussion today. The people of the Commonwealth are now looking to the U.S. Congress to hold to their course, not delay further increases, and finally bring some equity to this situation.

As yet, per the US Department of Labor's report of January 2008, there is no statistically sound economic data available from the Commonwealth that justifies a delay of the currently mandated increases in the minimum wage in the Commonwealth.

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral

Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center

Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish

Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish

Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish

Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish

Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota

Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota

Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish

Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish

Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish

Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios

Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad

Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan

Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8:10:30pm

Saturday Tagalog Service: 8:10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7:30pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan

Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan

Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Lalau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan

Worship Service: 9am
GFI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan

Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Kohlerville

Sunday Services
8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM Family Worship
3:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
Wednesdays at Parsonage
7:00 PM Prayer, Share and Care

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)

Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service

(Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan

English Service: 9:11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6:30pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan

Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan

English Worship Service: 9:10-30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9:10-30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry

Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church

Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church

Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church

Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ

Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church

(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chukkese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan

(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church

(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Aftena St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship

Wednesday

7pm worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. McLure at 234-1939/235-7799.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan

Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.

Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times

Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries

Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service,

Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting

Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service

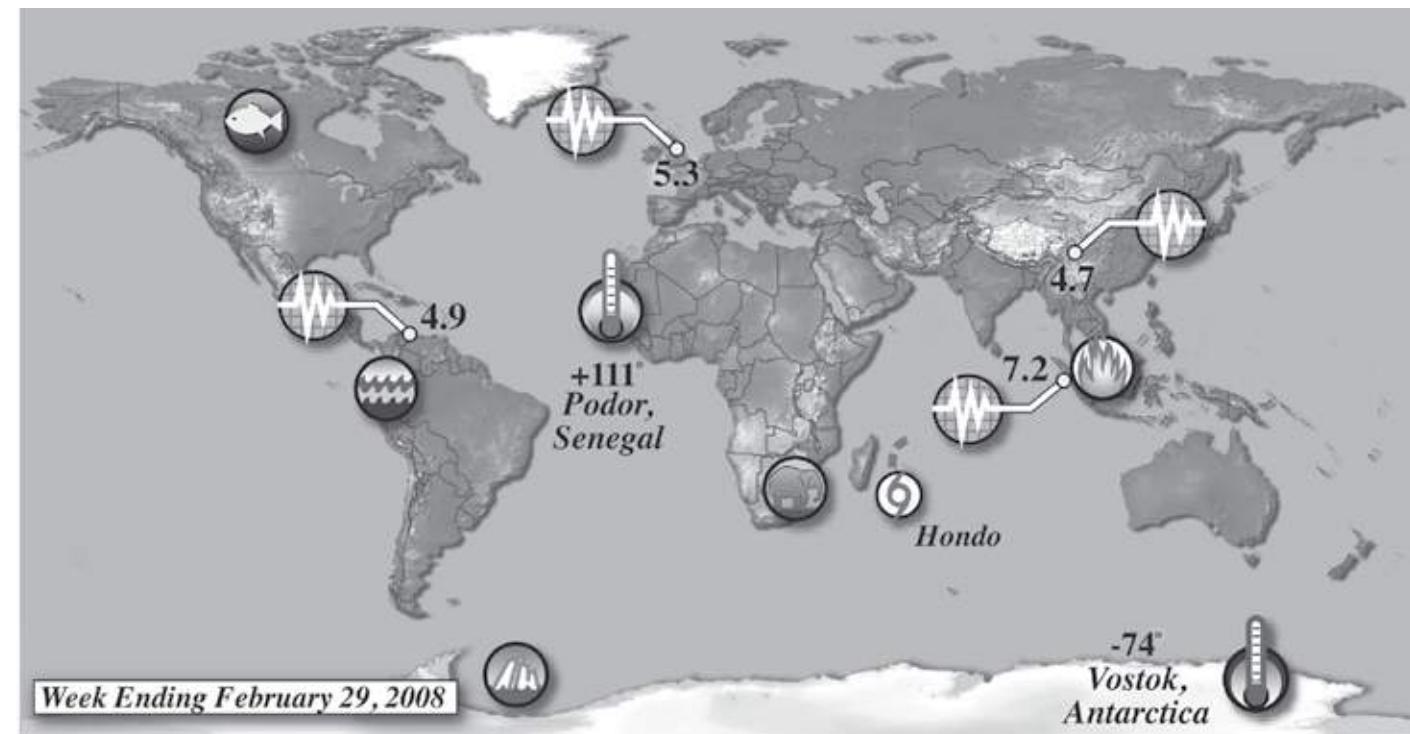
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church

Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am
Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6:30am M-S

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By STEVE NEWMAN



Glacial Surge

Researchers from the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) say they have discovered that a group of glaciers covering an area the size of Texas has begun to flow into the ocean at an accelerated rate during the past year. They warn that if the trend were to continue, sea level could rise worldwide by nearly 10 inches over a period of several decades. Satellite observation of the West Antarctica glaciers recorded acceleration of about 1 percent per year through the 1990s. But measurements taken by a BAS team show that ice flowing into the ocean has accelerated 7 percent in a single season. One possible cause is that a deep ocean current may be undercutting the ice and lubricating its flow. Another theory is that recently discovered geothermal activity may be melting the base of the ice, helping it slide toward the sea.

Earthquakes

The strongest seismic event to rock the United Kingdom in nearly 25 years caused light damage from Scotland to England's southern coast. One man was injured when a chimney smashed through the roof of his bedroom in South Yorkshire.

■ Earth movements were also felt in western Sumatra, southwest China's Sichuan province and northern Venezuela.

Reincarnated Storm

Remnants of former Tropical Cyclone Hondo moved westward over the Indian Ocean, coalescing several days later into a reconstituted storm. Hondo brought heavy rainfall and storm-force winds to Reunion and Mauritius, but caused no significant damage before dissipating a second time.

Police: Man gets shot to avoid work

PASCO, Wash. (AP)—What happened to faking a cough? Sheriff's detectives in Franklin County said a man had his friend shoot him in the shoulder so he wouldn't have to go to work. When he first spoke with deputies, Daniel Kuch, of Pasco, told them he'd been the victim of a drive-by shooting while he was out jogging Thursday. But detectives told KONA radio that Kuch later acknowledged that he asked his friend to shoot him so he could get some time off work and avoid an upcoming drug test. The friend, Kurtis Johnson, of Burbank, has been arrested for investigation of reckless endangerment. Kuch was booked into the county jail and is expected to be charged with false reporting.

Alleged store robber leaves his W-2 form

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—The robber of a convenience store left behind an unusual clue—a W-2 form. The man robbed a Git-N-Go store in Des Moines early Friday after telling a clerk he had a gun. He left the store with about \$115 but at some point took off his

hat and jacket. When police responded, they found the tax form in the coat pocket. Officers checked the name on the form and found a listing for a 25-year-old with a suspended driver's license who is on probation for theft. The man's description matched information provided by the clerk. Police are still looking for the robber.

Wis. baby 'leaps' into family history

LA CROSSE, Wis. (AP)—It was the perfect gift for someone born on Feb. 29—a leap day grandchild. As Julie Austin of Galesville prepared to observe her leap day birthday Friday, she was hoping to share the special day with the latest addition to her family. And that's what happened when her daughter, Melissa Boudreau, gave birth to a girl at 3:23 a.m. at Franciscan Skemp Medical Center. Adilyne Rejoyce weighed in at 7 pounds, 15 ounces and is 20 inches long. "I'm so thrilled," said Austin, who was born Feb. 29, 1956. "I never thought we'd have two leap day babies in our family, and to have a granddaughter on my birthday is so special." February only has a 29th day every four years.

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www.earthweek.com
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Good Housekeeping

An escape ladder

By Mary Ellen Slayter
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WHAT IT IS: A portable ladder that hooks over a window sill, providing a safer means of escape from a fire in a multi-story home. Such ladders store under a bed or near a window, and are designed to be quick and easy to use.

WHAT IT COSTS: Kidde sells a 13-foot model designed

for two-story homes for \$39.99. Kidde's 25-foot model, designed for three-story homes, retails for \$79.95. First Alert also sells both lengths at similar prices.

WHO NEEDS IT: Anyone who has sleeping areas on the second or third floor of a house, said Lorraine Carli, spokeswoman for National Fire Protection Association, which recommends one ladder in every occupied room on floors above

the main level. The ladders should be part of your escape plan in an emergency, she said, and should be used only if all other exits are blocked.

WHERE TO FIND IT: Home centers, hardware stores and online retailers.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: Carli said to buy a ladder that has been certified by an approved testing laboratory, such as ASTM Inter-



The escape ladder is a portable ladder that hooks over a window sill, providing a safer means of escape from a fire in a multistory home.

national. Be sure that the ladder you choose is suitable for the distance you have to climb, as well as the design of your win-

dow. Also, some ladders can't be used if there are irregular surfaces (such as another window) directly beneath the drop point.

The chain then travels upward above the sash and loops around a pulley wheel set into the jamb. In the hollow space inside the frame, the chain is attached to the end of a long, narrow iron weight. This pulley system allows double-hung windows to lift smoothly and easily.

Fortunately, you can access the inside of the frame in older double-hung windows to recover the weight and reattach the chain. Remove the wooden window stop on that side using a utility knife to cut through the paint film and a small pry bar to ease the piece out. Then pull the lower sash out of the frame, removing the sash cord on the other side to free it, and set it aside.

Inside the jamb, you should see a set of screws in the wood, indicating an access cover. Unscrew the cover—you may need to cut through paint again—and remove, revealing the jamb interior and the fallen weight and chain.

Retrieve the chain through

Fixing old sash cords

By Samantha Mazzotta
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, INC.



Q: I didn't pay much attention to the way double-hung windows worked, until one day when I lifted the sash higher than usual and heard a crashing sound. Turns out the windows were supported by a chain-and-weight pulley system on both sides. Now that window has lost one chain and weight, it is too lopsided to open or close. How can I fix this?

Clay B., Concord, N.H.

A: Double-hung windows use a dependable system with a fairly heavy weight, a rope or chain and a pulley wheel. The chain is recessed inside a groove on the sides of the window sash.

the access opening and detach from the weight. Untangle and check for damage. Then feed the chain around the pulley wheel—if it's stubborn, tie a nail to the chain end with a piece of string as a guide—and lower down into the cavity. Have a friend hold the end of the chain while you reattach the interior end to the weight.

Screw the access cover back into place, attach the lower sash to its sash chains and ease into place. Then nail or screw the window-stop back on.

HOME TIP: Replace pulley chains in double-hung windows with 1/4-inch nylon rope designed for the job. It's durable, rarely tangles and much quieter.

Send questions or home-repair tips to homoguru2000@hotmail.com, or write *This Is a Hammer*, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Tips to prevent fire

Many home fires are preventable. The National Fire Protection Association offers these suggestions:

- Keep space heaters three feet from anything that can burn.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside.
- Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children.
- Install smoke alarms.
- Don't leave cooking food on the stovetop unattended.
- Inspect electrical cords and replace or repair loose or frayed cords.
- Extinguish candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Test smoke alarms monthly.

SOURCE: National Fire Protection Association

SHELF LIFE

"Green Building & Remodeling for Dummies"

By Eric Corey Freed

This book provides a broad overview of issues for consumers interested in taking an environmental approach to building or rehabbing a home. Freed's step-by-step reference looks at everything from choosing a contractor to picking materials and a design that will fit the environment; it also debunks some green building myths. It's a good introduction to what to think about before starting a project. (*Special to Newsday*)

"Cool Green Stuff: A Guide to Finding Great Recycled, Sustainable, Renewable Objects You Will Love"

By Dave Evans

Dozens of quirky products, from coasters made of discarded computer motherboards to solar-cooled caps, bamboo purses to cardboard tables, are shown in beautifully arrayed photos by Australian Dave Evans. Each photo is accompanied by a quick explanation of the materials used and a link to a Web site where the item can be purchased. (*Special to Newsday*)

"Ten Shades of Green: Architecture and the Natural World"

By Peter Buchanan

Using 10 buildings as examples, author Peter Buchanan writes about ways to enliven contemporary architecture while remaining faithful to environmental principles. Through floor plans, sketches, photos and thoughtful text, Buchanan argues that sustainability is good for the planet and for expanding design ideas. The book documents an exhibit of the same name put together by the Architectural League. (*Special to Newsday*)

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- Above discounts good for up to 6 persons (including VIP cardholder)





Architect Stephen Muse designed this house overlooking Washington's Rock Creek Park. The home's owners love Japanese simplicity. The stair hall of the house is shown in another photo.

Designing additions that don't cause division

By JURA KONCIUS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Bethesda, Md., architect Stephen Muse has spent the past 25 years performing what he calls corrective surgery on some of the most beautiful old homes around Washington. His firm, Muse Architects, also has designed upscale custom houses known for their elegant lines and their neighborliness.

In December, Muse traveled to Charleston, S.C., to receive the Firm of the Year National Award from Residential Architect magazine. "I am especially proud of this award," he says, "because although we have received more than 100 design awards for individual projects, this award is for the body of work the firm has created."

Muse's houses are not glitzy, overblown trophy homes replete with massive bathrooms or flashy kitchens nobody cooks in. The firm's mission, Muse says, is to respect the history of a house while making it more efficient and comfortable. The goal is to create buildings that are compatible with their surroundings. "A lot of what we do is undo," Muse says.

Some architects design additions to match a house exactly and make it a lot bigger. Others purposely aim for stylistically distinct additions to accentuate the difference between old and new. Muse, 57, says either approach can leave an owner with two separate parts of a house, rather than a unified whole. "Our work is often described as looking like it has always been there," Muse says. "But I like to add the phrase: 'but it actually wasn't.'"



In a private residence architect Stephen Muse designed overlooking Washington's Rock Creek Park, Muse made subtle references to the owners' love of Japanese simplicity. The stair hall of the house fills the rooms with light.

ent list heavy with the capital's media elite and power players, among them Queen Noor of Jordan; historian Michael Beschloss; and philanthropist Sidney Harman and his wife, Rep. Jane Harman, D-Calif.

Right now his firm is working on a 7,000-square-foot addition and renovation to an Art Moderne house in Wash-

ington, an environmentally conscious house on a Montana ranch, and boat-houses for Georgetown University and St. Mary's College.

I interviewed Muse and his wife, Farideh, then newlyweds, in 1984, about the redo of their one-bedroom Washington co-op in "an era of skyrocketing real estate prices." A lot has changed. Last week, I sat down with Muse in his Bethesda, Md., office.

Q. How would you define the Washington dream house, and how do you determine what that is for each client?

A. We tend to be the firm that gets the phone call from the person who likes their house, but it's just not working for them. What we do is to look for a list of spaces that the owner needs, and talk to them about images of houses they like. We ask them to show us photos of about 10 rooms.

A major thing they want is a lot of natural light; many windows in old houses are too small and rooms too dark. Owners want comfortable houses that are timeless in their take. The back of old houses was all about preparing food and then mysteriously making it ap-

pear in the dining room. People don't live like that anymore. The kitchen is the center of the house right now. We bring family life into the 21st century and open up backs of houses to the garden. We always ask where people are from and to share memories of houses in their past that are either positive or negative.

Q. What do clients ask for today vs. 25 years ago?

A. In the early 1980s, much of the renovation work focused around adding kitchens and master bedrooms to old houses. You put up a sheet of plastic, add on, and do nothing to the existing house. About 15 years ago we started doing whole-house redos. Not only additions but total renovations. People started getting concerned about energy, heating and cooling systems that were not efficient. People wanted complete lighting and sound systems. Today, the additions we put on create more basement space. We use the space down there to put in small home theaters, exercise rooms and wine cellars.

The awareness of the environment is also a major change. We have to make houses sound, environmentally. The worst you can do to a historic house is tear it down and take the house to a land dump. We keep them and try to work with them to make them more efficient. We use reclaimed materials. I'm doing a Montana house of almost totally reclaimed materials, like floors, wood siding, corrugated metal roofs and stone from the site.

Q. What does the sputtering economy mean for your remodeling work and new construction?

A. Housing starts are down, but not at our firm. When money is good, people work on their houses. When money is not good, people say investing in a house is the best investment.

Q. You are known for high-end projects, but what do you advise those with smaller projects and smaller budgets?

A. Storage is very important. Closets with older houses are always a problem. There are two ways to do it. If the owners are willing to share, I like to make a larger, nicer closet which functions as a joint dressing room. If one person is sloppier than the other, then they usually want their own separate closets. We measure ev-



THE WASHINGTON POST
Architect Stephen Muse has received the Firm of the Year National Award from Residential Architect magazine. "This award is for the body of work the firm has created," he said.

erything from clothing to shoes and ask what other things they would like to incorporate.

There should be a family communications center, whether in a mudroom or in a home office.

The worst thing you can do is just do a lot of little things all around the house, things that don't really have a large-scale impact. You can spend a lot of money, but it doesn't really help. Come up with a plan to do one room at a time, solving the problems there.



THE WASHINGTON POST
Architect Stephen Muse's current projects include an addition and renovation to this Art Moderne house in Washington.

The Good Life

The planet's fastest revolution speaks to the human heart

By JOEL GARREAU
 © 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

The home is remote, even by Tibetan standards. Charming carvings cannot disguise how primitive it is. Not only does it have no toilet, it doesn't have an outhouse. Or even a designated hole in the ground. It does, however, boast one very great prize—a ringing cellphone.

“That is exactly the question I kept asking,” says Kevin Kelly, a founder of Wired magazine who is writing a book about “what technology wants.” The house at which he stayed—which featured a space under it to shelter the family dzo, a yak-cow hybrid—was “probably as large as my own. So they could build shelters. But they didn’t build toilets. Went in the barnyard, like their livestock. But man, they have better cellphone coverage than we do at home. Communication, not cleanliness, is next to godliness.”

Apparently so. The human race is crossing a line. There is now one cellphone for every two humans on Earth.

From essentially zero, we’ve passed a watershed of more than 3.3 billion active cellphones on a planet of some 6.6 billion humans in about 26 years. This is the fastest global diffusion of any technology in human history—faster even than the polio vaccine.

“We knew this was going to happen a few years ago. And we know how it will end,” says Eric Schmidt, Google’s chairman and CEO. “It will end with 5 billion out of the 6” with cellphones. A reasonable prediction is 4 billion in the next few years—the current proposal is 4 billion by 2010. And then the final billion or so within a few years thereafter.

“Eventually there will be more cellphone users than people who read and write. I think if you get that right, then everything else becomes obvious.”

“It’s the technology most adapted to the essence of the human species: sociability,” says Arthur Mollela, director of the Smithsonian’s Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation. “It’s the ultimate tool to find each other. It’s wonderful technology for being human.”

Maybe. But do our mobiles now render us unprecedently free? Or permanently tethered?

■ ■ ■

Life was so simple back in January of 1982. This was when Washington’s first 100 hand-held cellphones were put into service. The size of a Philly cheese steak, each weighed almost two pounds. An enterprising reporter took one up to the top of the Washington Monument.



THE WASHINGTON POST

Cell phones have got the whole world talking. A look at the planet’s fastest revolution.

“It ain’t got no wires!” shouted an observant tourist.

Back then, even the most wildly enthusiastic advocates proved shortsighted. Peter Erb, president of a pioneering cellphone company called Millicom, made a seemingly extravagant claim: “We’re talking about 50 to 60 million over the next 20 or 30 years.” He only underestimated by a factor of 60.

Not as legendary or fateful a mistake as AT&T’s, however. In 1980, the company whose Bell Labs invented cellphones listened to McKinsey, the consulting company they’d hired. Its estimate of the market in the year 2000 was off by a factor of 120—not even 1 percent of the real number. Based on that, AT&T decided there wasn’t much future to these toys. Not coincidentally, in 2005, it was swallowed up by SBC Communications Inc., originally a Baby Bell.

Little did these suits guess that hunks of plastic smaller than a candy bar would transform the world faster than did electricity, automobiles, refrigeration, credit cards or television.

And that’s in the States. If anything, cellphones have made a bigger difference, faster, in underdeveloped places where land lines have been scarce,

like Botswana and France. (In 1968, only 16 percent of French homes had telephones.)

In 2001, the people of the Philippines overthrew a dictator with their cellphones. Joseph Estrada, accused of massive corruption, was driven out of power by activists who, through text messaging, could bring hundreds of thousands of people into the streets in minutes. “It’s like pizza delivery,” said Alex Magno, a political science professor at the University of the Philippines. “You can get a rally in 30 minutes—delivered to you.”

In the hellish Madrid train bombings of 2004, cellphones were used as detonators. Then they heavily influenced the outcome of the presidential election three days later when the ruling party used traditional media to try to blame Basques for the carnage, and text messengers attributed it to Islamists protesting Spain’s involvement in the Iraq war.

In the 2005 London Tube bombings, the iconic images were captured not by press photographers, but by commuters with camera phones.

Cellphones are the first telecommunications technology in history to have

more users in the developing world—almost 60 percent—than in the West. Cellphone usage in Africa has been growing close to 50 percent annually, faster than any other region. More than 30 African nations have more cellphones than land lines. In only 11 years, Grameenphone—an offshoot of the Nobel Prize-winning micro-lending outfit—now covers 98 percent of Bangladesh and serves the majority of the country’s 30 million telephone users, only about a million of whom have land lines.

Even before cellphones became portals to the Web, they became the driving force behind many modernizing economies. Market women in Nigeria no longer are the vassals of their middlemen. Even before their nets are out of the water, fishermen in India can find out which port will give them the best price for their catch.

“The Internet is quite global. But the mobile phone is the way social cohesion is taking place. It tightens the bonds between us,” says Rich Ling, an American who researches the social consequences of mobile telephony for Telenor, the global phone company based in Oslo, Norway. He is the author of the forthcoming “New Tech, New Ties: How Mobile Communication Is Reshaping Social Cohesion.”

“Quite a bit of research shows that the tighter the group, the more they use the mobile phone. It takes place in mundane ways—work, jokes, gossip, coordinating a birthday party for your child, arranging the gang meeting at a restaurant.

“All of the other electronic mediation—television, the Internet—there’s a real question whether they’re fraying the social fabric. But all the research with mobile phones shows tightening bonds within small groups.” That’s because with cellphones, “I call an indi-

vidual. In the old system, I call a place and hope somebody might be there.”

“The cellphone allows us to create that local sphere” that was the hallmark of pre-industrial villages, says Ling. Cellphone circles tend to be small and full of people who “know what you’re up to, who you are, what’s in your refrigerator. That’s a way of being attached to society. It has a socializing effect.”

■ ■ ■

You can look at a honeybee and never guess that a large collection of them would transform into an entirely different kind of organism—a hive—with astonishing capabilities.

Just so, what emerges when intensely personal and insanely powerful pocket gadgets allow more than half of all people on Earth to connect for the first time? Is this a tipping point?

“At some point your society gets so big that it’s plainly different than a hunter-gatherer village. This is a threshold you only pass a few times in the history of life, when you build something that looks like a superorganism,” says Robert Wright, author of “Nonzero: The Logic of Human Destiny.”

“All of these technologies have the potential to make human social groups more efficient ‘superorganisms’ on larger and larger scales. Corporations today are bigger and more efficient than they were 50 years ago. They’re more responsive to change in a shorter time and cover more ground because of these sorts of technology. They are more vividly like organisms.”

“But the implications are that terrorists can be multinational. In the long run these technologies have the capacity to bring social order on a larger scale. But in the short run, the tendency is towards turbulence. China is dealing with this in particular. Cellphones play a role in protests and riots.”

“Are you more free or less? Both. You’re less confined to a single space. But ultimately it feels pretty damn tethered. That network of e-mail correspondence that you have to respond to. You give people your cellphone number so they can reach you at any time. You’re choosing to build this prison. But it is a prison.”

You have questions; we have answers

By JOEL GARREAU
 © 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

If we didn’t shut off our cellphones before takeoff, would airplanes fall out of the sky?

Probably not, pilots say, but let’s not find out the hard way.

Do cellphones cause car crashes?

They’re as distracting as driving drunk, according to some studies, but almost seven times less distracting than trying to catch a spilling beer can at 60 mph, according to others. People who text while driving, research suggests, should be horsewhipped.

Do cellphones fry your brain?

“Overall, research has not consistently demonstrated a link between

cellular telephone use and cancer or any other adverse health effect,” the National Cancer Institute says. But a recent study claims late-night cellphone radiation is what causes adolescent sleeplessness and confusion, to which parents have responded, “Yeah, right.”

I use my cell’s backlight to find things in the dark. Am I weird?

Perhaps. But two-thirds of us do it, according to Sprint.

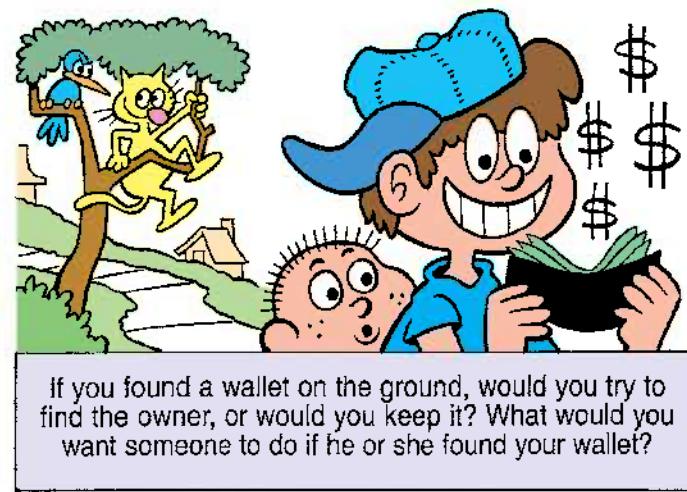
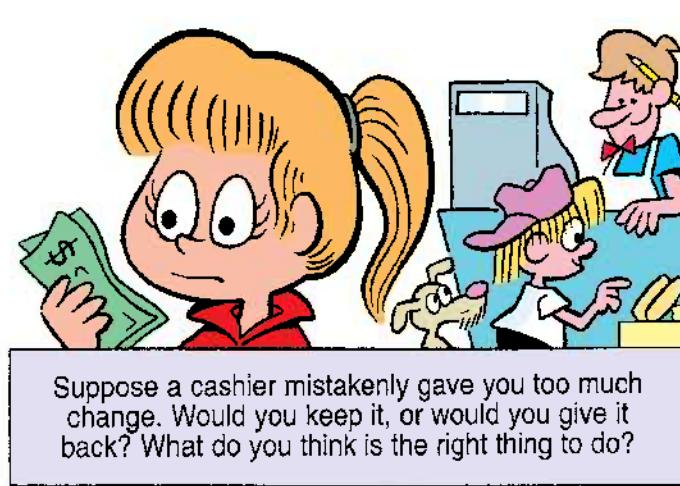
Is there anything uglier than a cellphone tower?

A cellphone tower disguised as a palm tree.

Are cellphones killing off the bees?

Only if you close the lid on one.

Bob Weber Jr.'s
SLYLOCK FOX
 and
 Comics for Kids



Shady Shrew is under arrest for skipping his court appearance. Shady insists he overslept. He claims his alarm clock failed to ring because the utility company shut off his electric power. Why doesn't Slylock Fox think Shady Shrew has a valid excuse?

Solution -- Slylock noticed that Shady Shrew has a wind-up alarm clock. It doesn't need electricity.

More Slylock Fox at www.kidcartoonists.com



Find six differences between these panels.

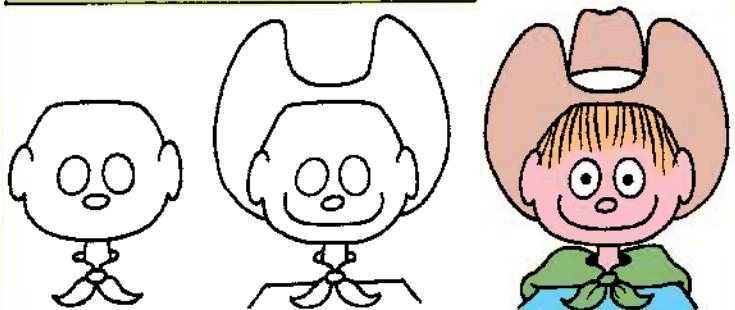


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New! The fourth *Find the six differences* collection is here. Send \$4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to Six Differences No. 4, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

HOW TO DRAW a young cowboy



YOUR DRAWING



Today's artist is Andrea Arnold, age 14, of Studio City, CA

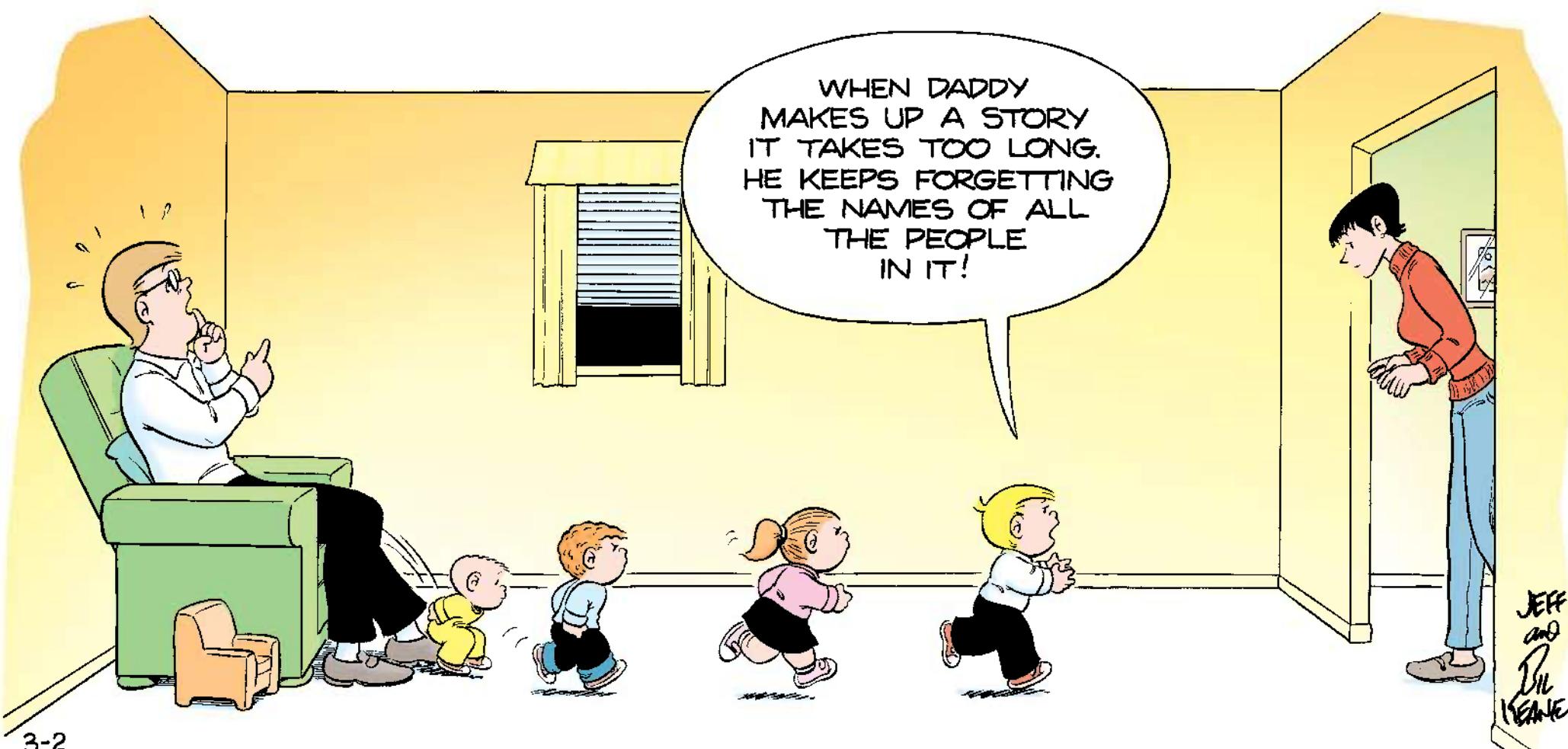
You can submit and see many more wonderful and creative kid drawings online at www.kidcartoonists.com

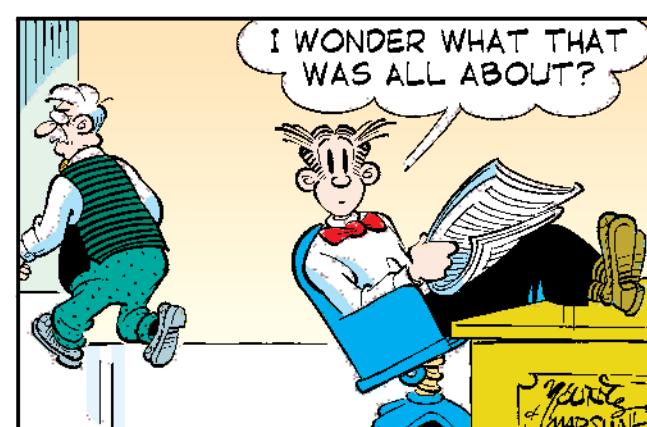
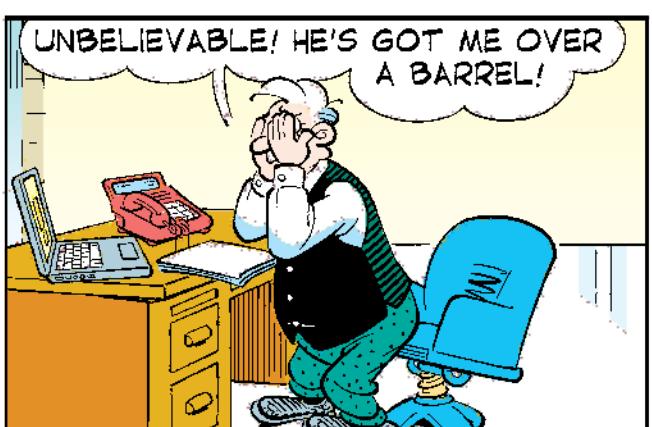
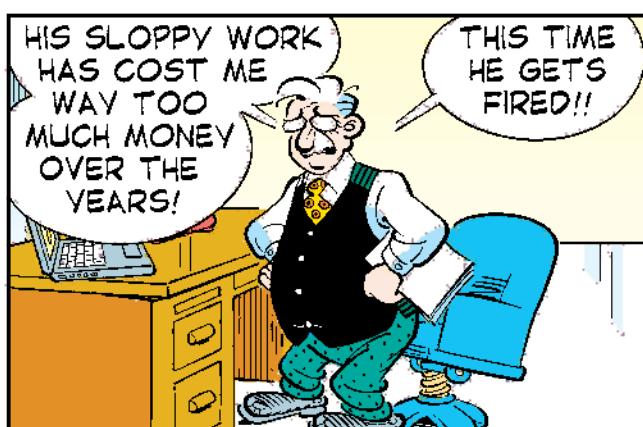
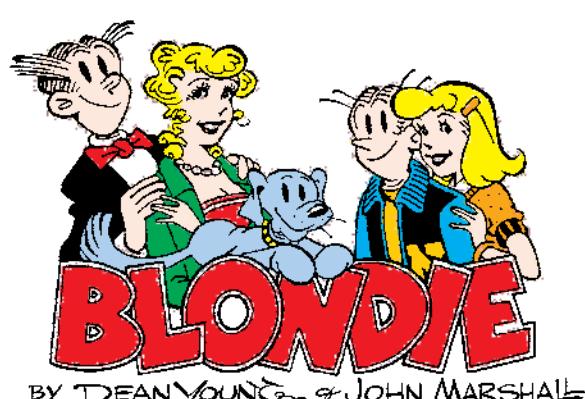
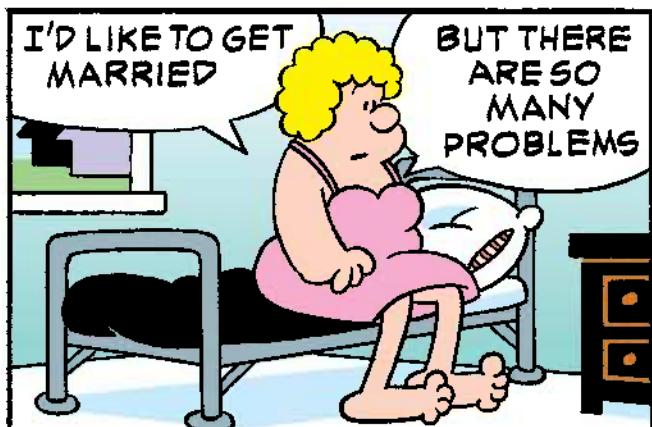
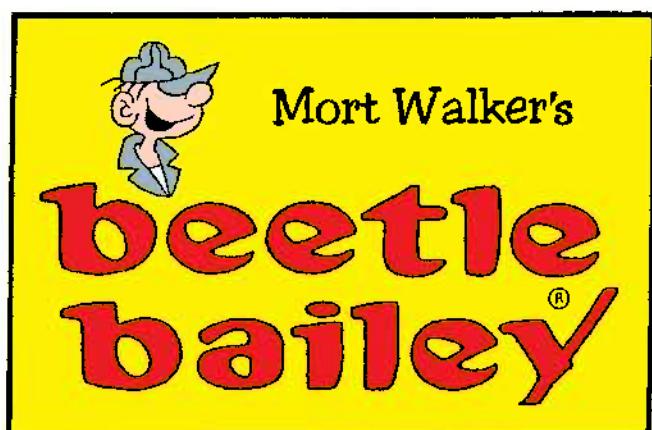
The scrambled words are pond creatures. How many can you unscramble?
 1) ETRLLUT
 2) LASIN
 3) SAHCITF
 4) DETOAPL

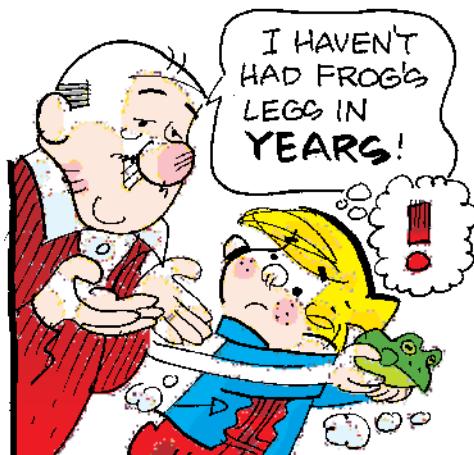
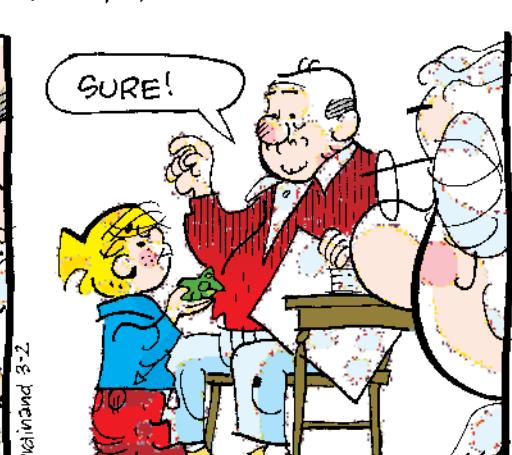
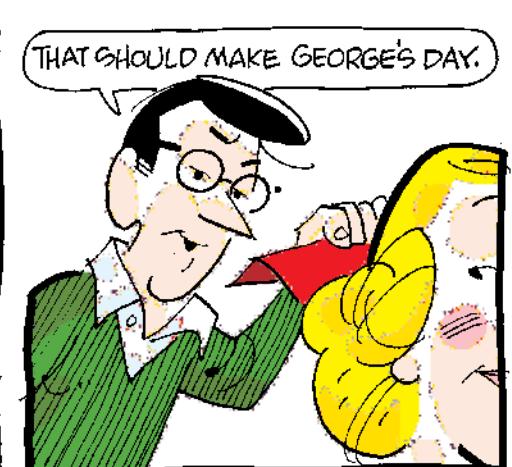
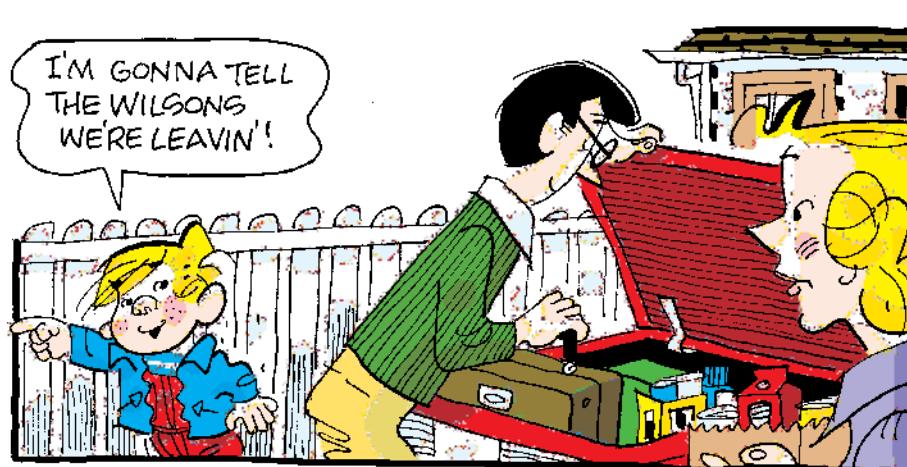
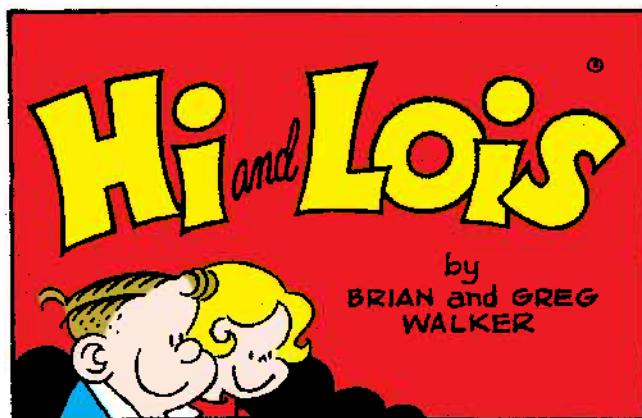
Answer -- Button, star, moon, antennae, mouse and rabbit's foot

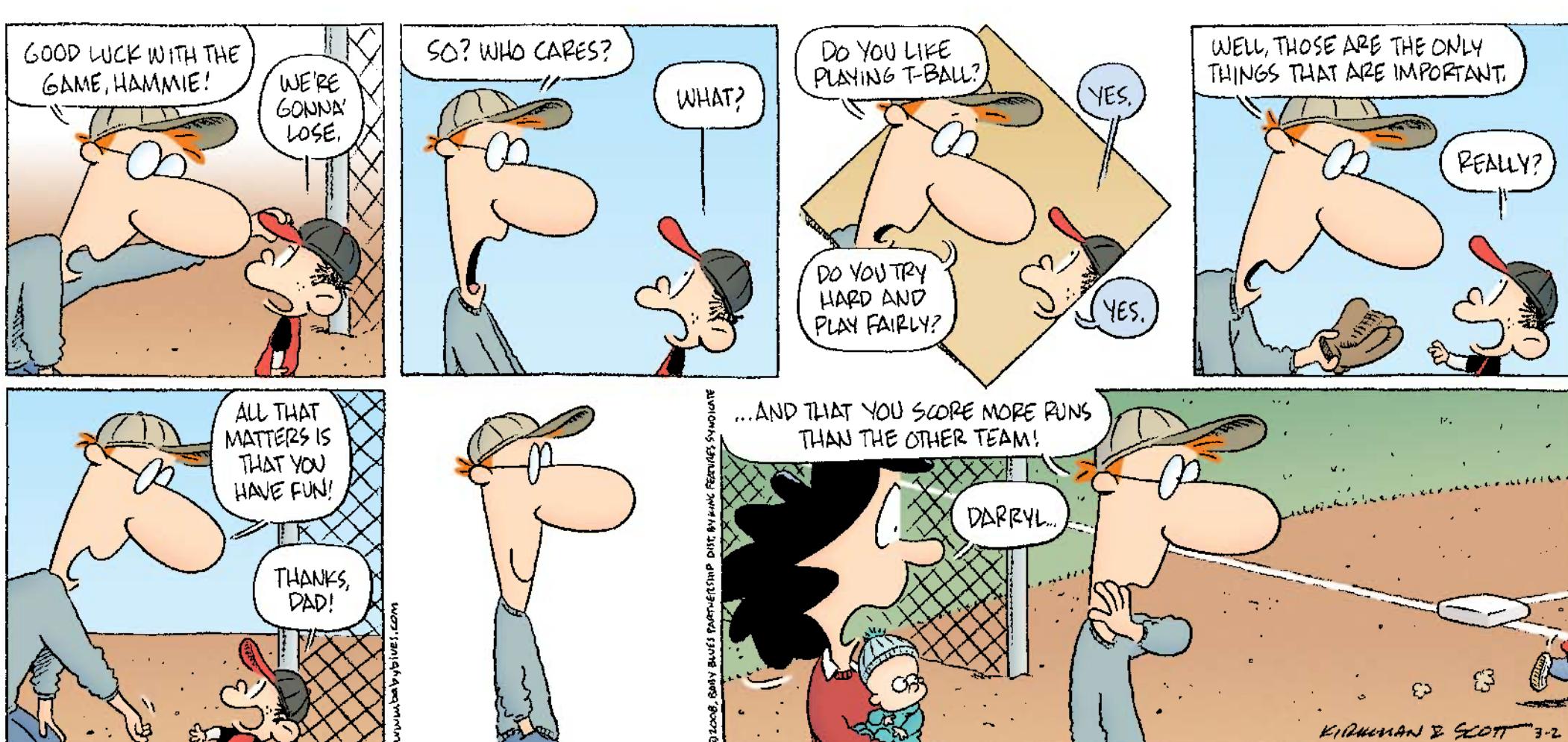
THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By BILL KEANE









Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Congratulations, Lamb. The end of the month brings good news in the workplace, thanks to all the efforts you've made to get your projects off the ground and running.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Don't let yourself be cowed into thinking you're not up to the challenge you've taken on. Keep reinforcing your self-confidence, and no one and nothing can stop you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Positive responses to a recent workplace move should give you added assurance that you're on the right track. Celebrate the good news with family and/or friends.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) There's still a little emotional fuzziness you have to work through before you can feel really certain about your recent decisions. But you're on the right track. Stay with it.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You're tempted by an offer that seems close to what you've been looking for. But before you pounce on it, see if you can coax out some added perks to sweeten the deal.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your efforts to settle a volatile situation should prove successful. Now could be a good time to analyze what might have created the problem in the first place.



LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A once-close associate re-emerges with news that could cause you to reconsider a recent decision. But don't make a move before consulting a trusted adviser.



SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You might feel pressured to reveal a colleague's secret. But you can rely on your strong Scorpion sense of rectitude to help you continue to do the right thing.



SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) That pesky situation is still creating problems. But you are moving ahead with it, and it should soon be successfully resolved in your favor.



CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A spate of indecision leaves you susceptible to doubt. But you'll soon regain your emotional sure-footedness and be back leading the way, as usual.



AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Love rules the week with new romances favored for single Aquarians looking for partners. Cupid also targets renewed commitment for wedded Water Bearers.



PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A surge of creativity keeps you happily busy through the week. But leave some quiet time to share with loved ones. Some long-awaited news finally comes through.

BORN THIS WEEK: People rely on you whenever they need someone they can trust to be caring, considerate and also discreet.

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Suitable

4 Ump

7 "Star Wars"

crime lord

12 Brock of baseball lore

13 Guitar's cousin

14 For all to hear

15 Under the weather

16 1960s British hoodlums

18 -relief

19 Store-sign stat

20 Mesopotamia, today

22 Wire service initials

23 Stir-fry equipment

27 Pretense

29 Pluto, once

31 Snap

34 Lamenter's verse

35 Confine with walls

37 Dine on

38 Bleak film genre

39 "Smoking or -?"

41 Metal coffee cup holder

45 Drum type

47 Solidify

48 Elvis No.1 hit, for short

52 Dined

53 One of Churchill's

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13			14				
15			16		17					
18			19							
20		21	22			23	24	25	26	
		27	28		29	30				
31	32	33			34					
35			36	37						
38			39	40		41	42	43	44	
48	49	50	51							
53				54			55			
56				57			58			

offerings?

54 Time of your life?

55 Rage

56 Tubular pasta

57 "Misérables"

58 Part of NIMBY

8 Priestly garment

9 Greet the villain

10 Purchase

11 Billboards

12 Faucet problem

13 Persian Gulf nation

14 Sapporo sash

15 Remote control precursor

16 Mesh, as gears

17 Ryan or Shaquille

18 One more time

19 Back in style

20 Armada

21 Data unit

22 Mined finds

23 Recipe meas.

24 See 26-Down

25 Med. arrangement

26 Pigs' home

27 Opposed

28 Meadow

29 Lamb dam

30 Lair

31 Roseanne's TV hubby

32 Toronto Blue-

33 Sos Taboo

34 Sum

35 Mogul

36 Over rope

37 Sumac eta

38 Seam morrison

39 Screw near

40 Morse code urn

41 Oahu adar sec

42 Prop medis hoe

43 Sos taboo

44 Bambi sum

45 Enola lira

46 Awe mortgages

47 More over

48 Apes sumac

49 Seams morrison

50 Scream near

51 Morse code urn

52 Oahu adar sec

53 Prop medis hoe

top ten



1. Elvis Presley
2. John Lennon
3. Charles Schulz
4. George Harrison
5. Albert Einstein
6. Andy Warhol
7. Dr. Seuss (Theodor Geisel)
8. Tupac Shakur
9. Marilyn Monroe
10. Steve McQueen

*2007 earnings

Source: Forbes magazine

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KING CROSSWORD LAST SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

S	I	P	D	A	N	A	C	R	O	P
C	O	O	O	D	O	R	L	I	R	A
A	W	E	M	O	R	T	G	A	G	S
B	A	M	B	J	S	U	M	S	U	M
E	N	O	L	M	O	G	U	L	M	O
M	O	R	E	O	V	E	R	O	P	O
A	P	E	S	U	M	A	C	E	T	A
S	E	A	M	M	O	R	R	I	S	O
S	C	R	E	W	N	E	A	R	Y	A
S	O	S	T	A	B	O	O	U	N	R
M	O	R	S	E	C	O	D	U	R	N
O	A	H	U	A	D	A	R	S	E	C
P	R	O	P	M	E	D	S	H	O	E

United States

Vegas puzzle: Deadly toxin in motel room



In this Thursday, April 15, 2004 picture, office manager Kristina Damico holds castor seeds at Sheffield's Seed Co. in Locke, N.Y.

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Authorities on Friday confirmed that the deadly toxin ricin was found in a motel room most recently occupied by a man who has been in critical condition with breathing problems at a hospital for more than two weeks.

Las Vegas police said there was no apparent link to terrorist activity, and no indication of any spread of the deadly substance beyond the several vials of powder found in a plastic bag in the man's room on Thursday. But what the ricin was doing there remained a mystery.

A pinprick of ricin is enough to kill.

"Six to eight hours, you're going to start showing symptoms," said Greg Evans, director of the Institute for Biosecurity at Saint Louis University in Missouri.

A friend or relative of the sick man found the vials after going to the Extended Stay America motel, several blocks west of the Las Vegas Strip, to retrieve his belongings, police Deputy

Chief Kathy Suey said. Tests by police homeland security officers, the Nevada National Guard and a laboratory in Las Vegas came back positive for ricin, she said. A cleanup of the motel has been completed, she added.

Seven people, including the man who found the ricin, the manager, two other motel employees and three police officers, were decontaminated at the scene and taken to hospitals for examination, but none have shown any signs of being affected by ricin, Suey said. All were released overnight.

"There is no information to lead us to believe that this is the result of any terrorist activity or related to any possible terrorist activity," Suey said. "We don't have any reason to believe any of it left the property."

Police cordoned off the hotel and told residents to stay in their rooms. The cordon was lifted early Friday morning, and the motel has been open since then.

Clinton tries to raise the bar for Obama



WACO, Texas (AP)—Recasting what would keep her campaign alive, Hillary Rodham Clinton's advisers said Friday that if rival Barack Obama loses any of Tuesday's four presidential primaries, it would show Democrats are having second thoughts about him.

In an e-mail and conference call to reporters, Clinton's campaign sought to raise the stakes for the Illinois senator in next week's primaries and also laid the groundwork to keep her campaign alive if the results are disappointing.

PHOENIX (AP)—John McCain is refusing to renounce the endorsement of a prominent Texas televangelist who Democrats say peddles anti-Catholic and other intolerant speech.

Instead, the Republican presidential candidate issued a statement Friday afternoon saying he had unspecified disagreements with the San Antonio megachurch leader,

Writer admits Holocaust book is not true

BOSTON (AP)—Almost nothing Misha Defonseca wrote about herself or her horrific childhood during the Holocaust was true.

She didn't live with a pack of wolves to escape the Nazis. She didn't trek 1,900 miles across Europe in search of her deported parents, nor kill a German soldier in self-defense. She's not even Jewish.

Defonseca, a Belgian writer now living in Massachusetts, admitted through her lawyers this week that her best-

John Hagee. Hagee endorsed him at a news conference Wednesday in San Antonio.

"However, in no way did I intend for his endorsement to suggest that I in turn agree with all of Pastor Hagee's views, which I obviously do not," McCain said in the statement.

Democrats quoted Hagee as saying the Catholic Church conspired with Nazis against the Jews and that Hurricane Katrina was God's retribution for homosexual sin, and they recited his demeaning comments about women and flip remarks about slavery.

Obama heads into Tuesday's primaries in Texas, Ohio, Rhode Island and Vermont riding a streak of 11 consecutive primary and caucus wins and leading the former first lady in the popular vote, committed delegates and fundraising.

In the conference call, senior Clinton strategist Howard Wolfson seized on those facts to reshape expectations about the Democratic contest.

selling book, "Misha: A Memoire of the Holocaust Years," was an elaborate fantasy she kept repeating, even as the book was translated into 18 languages and made into a feature film in France.

"This story is mine. It is not actually reality, but my reality, my way of surviving," Defonseca said in a statement given by her lawyers to The Associated Press.

"I ask forgiveness to all who felt betrayed. I beg you to put yourself in my place, of a 4-year-old girl who was very lost," the statement said.

ACROSS THE NATION

2 inspectors on leave over beef recall

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has suspended at least two federal meat inspectors following the largest beef recall in the nation's history, a union head said Friday. Stan Painter, chairman of the National Joint Council of Food Inspection Locals, said the USDA confirmed it has placed a veterinarian and a floor inspector from Westland/Hallmark Meat Co. on paid administrative leave. Painter said a local union representative told him earlier Friday that a third inspector was also placed on leave, but he could not confirm it with the agency.

Human error blamed in Fla. power outage

MIAMI (AP)—Florida Power & Light says human error caused a power outage for more than half a million customers earlier this week. The electric company released a two-page preliminary report on Friday. It placed blame on a field engineer who was investigating a switch that malfunctioned at a substation in west Miami. The company says two nuclear reactors and a natural gas unit at the Turkey Point facility south of Miami shut down. Two other Florida Power & Light plants were also affected.

Oklahoma man found guilty in girl's slaying

NORMAN, Okla. (AP)—A jury found a man guilty of first-degree murder Friday in the killing of a 10-year-old girl, reaching its decision within minutes the day after hearing his macabre videotaped confession. Kevin Underwood, a former grocery stocker who claimed Internet pornography stoked his cannibalistic fantasies,

showed no emotion as the verdict was announced. Family members of the victim, Jamie Rose Bolin, patted each other and shook hands. The girl's body was found in a plastic tub in Underwood's apartment in April 2006. Jurors had heard his detailed videotaped confession in court Thursday.

Pasadena school search for gunman

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Police locked down a school and searched students Friday after a report that a gunman was spotted on campus, officials said. SWAT teams were sent to Blair International Baccalaureate School shortly before 9:30 a.m. after a faculty member reported that someone on campus had seen a man with a handgun, police Lt. Tom Pederson said. "Very little description of this person was provided," he said. As a precaution, all 1,200 students were confined to classrooms for hours as police searched the campus, formerly called Blair High School.

Prosecutors rest in Navy terrorism case

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—Federal prosecutors played secretly taped phone conversations Friday to show jurors that a former Navy sailor charged with leaking ship movements to suspected terrorism supporters used coded speech to discuss intelligence about military bases. In the calls, Hassan Abu-Jihad, 32, of Phoenix, speaks of "fresh meals" and "cold meals" in conversations with associates. A "fresh meal" referred to useful information, while "cold meal" was code for outdated intelligence, prosecutors said. Abu-Jihad has pleaded not guilty to providing material support to terrorists and disclosing clas-

sified national defense information. If convicted, he faces as many as 25 years in prison.

US plans to deport Chinese fugitive

ATLANTA (AP)—A Chinese fugitive accused of killing his wife in New Zealand, abandoning his 3-year-old daughter in Australia and fleeing to the United States will be deported instead of facing an extradition hearing, officials said Friday. Justice Department officials decided that Nai Yin Xue will be removed from the U.S., said Pat Reilly, a spokeswoman for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ICE officials will eventually accompany him back to New Zealand, she said. An interpreter and a federal public defender had initially come to U.S. District Court in Atlanta on Friday in anticipation of a court appearance by Xue.

ID theft charges filed in MN bus crash

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Federal prosecutors filed identity theft charges Friday against a woman who was driving a van that crashed into a school bus in southwestern Minnesota, killing four students. Olga Marino Franco del Cid, 24, of Minneota, had already been charged in state court with four counts of criminal vehicular homicide. The new charges accuse her of giving authorities a false name and Social Security number after the Feb. 19 crash near Cottonwood. Right after the crash, Franco identified herself as Alani Nunez-Morales, but immigration investigators said they found the real Nunez-Morales in Connecticut. She told them her purse and identification documents were stolen more than six months ago in Puerto Rico, according to an ICE affidavit.

Asia

Bombing kills 35 at Pakistan funeral

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide attacker blew himself at a funeral Friday for a slain policeman in Pakistan's volatile Swat Valley, killing at least 35 people including the officer's 16-year-old son.

It was the deadliest attack in the country since the Feb. 18 parliamentary elections. And it was the bloodiest in the Swat Valley since militant followers of a pro-Taliban cleric grabbed control of large parts of the scenic corner of Pakistan's restive northwest.

President Pervez Musharraf sent in thousands of troops in November to reassert government control over the valley. The army says it has retaken most of

Swat, but attacks persist and the leader of the uprising, Mullah Fazlullah, remains at large.

About 800 people, including police officials and civilians, were at a government high school for the funeral of senior police officer Javed Iqbal.

Iqbal, the deputy police chief of the Lakki Marwat district, and his driver were killed in a roadside bomb Friday morning. By the time his body was brought to his hometown of Mingora for the funeral, night had fallen.

"Because it was dark, the suicide bomber was able to mingle among the people easily," said Shahbuddin, an assistant inspector of police who was at the funeral.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Interpol alert follows suspect escape

SINGAPORE (AP)—Interpol on Friday issued a worldwide security alert after a suspected Islamic terrorist leader escaped from a Singapore jail and triggered a manhunt across this usually well-policed island nation. The government apologized for the security lapse after Mas Selamat Kastari—who once allegedly plotted to hijack a plane and crash it into Singapore's international airport—slipped away Wednesday. The international police organization said it put out an "Orange Notice" on Mas Selamat, who is said to be commander of the Singapore arm of Jemaah Islamiyah, a Southeast Asian extremist group allied with al-Qaida. Minister of Home Affairs Wong Kan Seng said Mas Selamat escaped after being taken from his cell to go to a room for a scheduled visit by his family at the Whitley Road Detention Center.

Taliban blow up Afghan phone tower

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban militants blew up a telecommunications tower Friday in southern Afghanistan following a warning to phone companies to shut down the towers at night or face attack. The militants fear U.S. and other foreign troops are using mobile phone signals to track insurgents and launch attacks against them. A Taliban spokesman on Monday said militants would blow up towers across Afghanistan if the companies did not switch off their signals overnight. Insurgents made good on that threat Friday, destroying a tower along the main highway in the Zhari district of Kandahar province, said Niaz Mohammad Serhadi, the top district official. The tower was owned by Areeba, one of four cellular companies in Afghanistan.

Open letter calls for China human rights

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese petitioners have written a letter to lawmakers questioning whether the communist government is "civilized" enough to stage the Beijing Olympics, a watchdog group said Friday. At least one person who helped organize the open letter has been seized by police after its release, according to China Human Rights Defenders, an international network of activists and rights monitoring groups. "Petitioners like us whose human rights have been abused and are unable to find help, we think: If a country can't even protect basic human rights, then obviously it is not a civilized and modern country," said the letter, addressed to members of the National People's Congress, China's rubber stamp legislature, which convenes next week for its annual session.

Myanmar activists face new charges

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's military junta has charged about 20 pro-democracy activists under a security law that carries a prison sentence of up to 20 years, a lawyer said Friday. The dissidents were detained in connection with last year's mass pro-democracy demonstrations, which were violently suppressed in September by the government. The detained dissidents, being held at Yangon's notorious Insein prison, were earlier charged with violating the Printing and Publishing Act, for which they face a maximum seven years imprisonment, said defense lawyer Aung Thein. They include prominent activists Min Ko Naing and Ko Ko Gyi of the 88 Generation Students group, whose demonstrations against economic hardship helped spark the broader September protests.

Japan drops charges vs US Marine

TOKYO (AP)—A U.S. Marine who was accused of raping a 14-year-old girl in southern Japan has been released after prosecutors dropped the charges at the teenager's request, the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Staff Sgt. Tyrone Luther Hadnott, 38, was arrested on Feb. 10 on suspicion of raping the girl on the southern island of Okinawa, fueling nationwide furor over crimes involving American troops in Japan.

Hadnott was released Friday night after the girl withdrew her criminal complaint against him, said Ryo Fukahori, a Foreign Ministry official in charge of Japan-U.S. security. Rape charges in Japan can be filed only with a victim's complaint.

Fukahori said the rape charges could be separately pursued by the U.S. military. Phone calls to the Marine Corps on Okinawa went unanswered, and the U.S. consulate said it had no immediate comment.

State Department spokesman Tom Casey told reporters Friday that the United States remains "very concerned about this incident" and has "great sympathies" for the girl and her family. He had no details about the legal process.

Japanese police earlier said Hadnott admitted that he forced the girl down and kissed her, but that he denied raping her.

China agrees to share its military records

SHANGHAI, China (AP)—A window has opened for families of the 8,100 American servicemen missing since the Korean War, with China agreeing on Friday to allow access to sensitive military records—but only to Chinese researchers at first.

In another sign of warming U.S.-China military ties, the two countries also agreed to set up a military hot line for communicating in emergencies, a step long sought by the U.S. to build trust and transparency in their relations.

"We're very happy to be able to finally move this forward," said David Sedney, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asian Security Affairs. The agreement came at the end of annual defense talks between the two nations in Shanghai.

Progress on the U.S.-China "defense telephone link" had been slow since China committed publicly to it last summer. The line is expected to be operating in a month's time between U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates and his Chinese counterpart.

World

Israel warns of disaster in Gaza

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's deputy defense minister warned of disaster in the Gaza Strip after Palestinian rocket fire grew more ominous Friday with an assault on an Israeli city. Gaza's unbowed Hamas rulers promised to fight on.

Meanwhile, Hamas said a 13-month-old girl and three other civilians were killed in an Israeli

strike on Beit Hanoun, a northern town in Gaza where Palestinian militants often launch rockets at Israel. But local residents said a militant rocket fell short and landed in the area of the baby's house.

Deputy Defense Minister Matan Vilhai told Army Radio that because of the militants' attacks, Israel had "no other

choice" but to launch a massive military operation in the Gaza Strip.

"As the rocket fire grows, and the range increases ... they are bringing upon themselves a greater 'shoah' because we will use all our strength in every way we deem appropriate, whether in airstrikes or on the ground," Vilhai said.

Turkish troops withdraw from Iraq

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP)—Truckloads of weary and unshaven Turkish troops returned Friday from Iraq as Turkey ended an eight-day cross-border offensive against Kurdish rebels, meeting U.S. demands for a quick campaign.

Washington and Baghdad

Particle collider's last big piece set

GENEVA (AP)—Engineers on Friday fitted the last major piece into what they say will be the world's largest scientific instrument—a nuclear particle accelerator in a 17-mile tunnel under the Swiss-French border.

The wheel-shaped piece of equipment, with a diameter of about 30 feet, was lowered down a 330-foot shaft and fitted with other equipment known as detectors in an underground room the size of a cathedral.

"It's exciting but at the same time there is a feeling of relief," said Robert Aymar, director-general of the European Organization for Nuclear Research, as he watched.

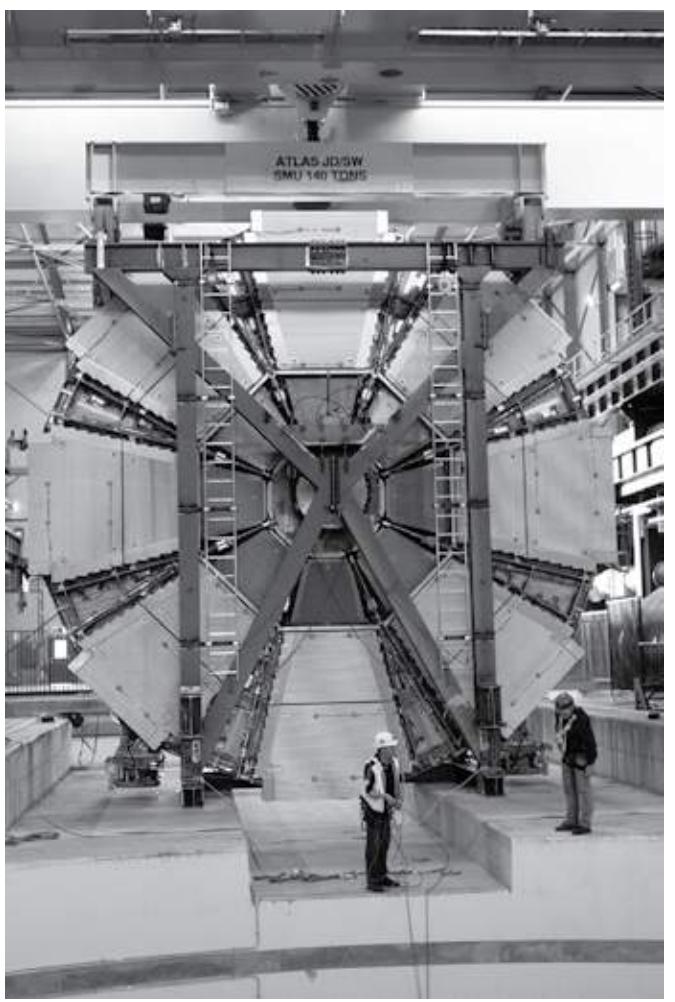
The startup date for the Large Hadron Collider, eagerly awaited by scientists planning to use it for studying the makeup of matter and the universe, has not been set. Aymar said the \$2 billion project, under construction since 2003, appeared to be on target for completion by this summer.

"For such a huge, complex enterprise, difficulties are there," Aymar, a French scientist, told The Associated Press in an interview at CERN, as the organization is known from its French acronym.

The wheel installed Friday contains a cluster of tightly packed detector chambers made up mostly of either cop-

welcomed the move, but Turkey warned that the forces would return if necessary.

A key test of the effectiveness of Turkey's ground incursion could come in the weeks ahead with the arrival of spring, the traditional start of the fighting season of the



The last element, weighing 100 tonnes, of the ATLAS (A Toroidal LHC Apparatus) experiment is lowered into the cave at the European Organization for Nuclear Research CERN (Centre Européen de Recherche Nucléaire) in Meyrin, near Geneva, Switzerland, Friday Feb. 29, 2008.

per or aluminum. Their function is to trace the particles that come off protons when they collide at the speed of light.

"When the wheels were

shipped from where they were assembled at CERN, I had butterflies in my stomach," Frank Taylor, a senior research scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "In fact, I

mentioned to somebody it was valium in the morning and, if successful, champagne in the afternoon. Now I've just gone to coffee."

He said hard work remains for his team, which must connect the rest of the detector to the wheel that was assembled from precision parts made in several countries.

Spain to extradite 'dirty war' suspect

MADRID, Spain (AP)—A Spanish court has decided to halt the prosecution of a key Argentine dirty war suspect charged with genocide and terrorism and instead extradite him to stand trial in his home

country, officials said Friday.

Ricardo Miguel Cavallo is a former military officer who was considered a leading figure in the repressive military juntas that ruled Argentina in the 1970s and 1980s. He was

extradited from Mexico City, where he was living under an assumed identity, to Madrid in 2003 after Spanish Judge Baltasar Garzon charged him with genocide, terrorism and other crimes.

Focus

Putin's legacy: A rigid political system



Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, and First Deputy Prime Minister and presidential candidate Dmitry Medvedev are seen during a meeting in the Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow, Sunday, Dec. 30, 2007.

AP

By DOUGLAS BIRCH
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MOSCOW (AP)—When Vladimir Putin was elected president in 2000, Russian television was a rough-and-tumble place, broadcasting fierce debates and biting satire. One by one, those programs were taken off the air.

Sunday's presidential election marks a symbolic end to Russia's tortured post-Soviet odyssey from poverty and despair to economic might. But along the way, the country has embraced a rigid political orthodoxy—call it "Putinism"—that the Kremlin has used to crush the independence of political parties, civil society and the media.

"Everything today is being seen through the eyes of the Putin presidency," said Savik Shuster, the former host of "Freedom of Speech," one of the last of the no-holds-barred talk shows when it was yanked in 2004.

Now, he said, Russia's TV fare suggests "that everything that is democratic is actually stale and bitter and useless."

The president's stature is such that the election is expected to be little more than a ratification of his choice of a successor: his longtime friend and first deputy prime minister, Dmitry Medvedev. Putin, meanwhile, plans to become prime minister when his presidential term ends in May—and many suspect he will continue to run Russia from behind the scenes.

Voters seem reluctant to see the Putin era end.

"Before Putin, Russia was a mess, I was offended by seeing how Russia was humiliated by the West," said Ella Luschenko, 45, who moved to Moscow with her two sons in the late 1990s after divorcing an alcoholic husband.

"Now, you don't have to go to bed thinking, 'What am I going to do tomorrow to feed myself?'"

What about democracy?

"Russia never knew democracy, and attempts to

introduce it always ended in a bad way," she said.

Indeed, that view is shared by millions of Russians who equate democracy with the chaos, corruption and economic meltdown of the years under Putin's predecessor, Boris Yeltsin.

Yeltsin was, in a sense, a demolition expert who brought the remnants of the Soviet Union crashing down around the heads of the Russian people. What followed were wars, financial shocks and beggary. The low point came in 1998, when the ruble collapsed and Russia was forced to accept a humiliating bailout from the International Monetary Fund.

After Putin was elected in March 2000, it was his job—essentially—to build a replacement for the socialist utopia.

His experience as a spy and his career as a bureaucrat in the 1990s in St. Petersburg and Moscow may not have made him the ideal national architect. But eight years ago he was the only one Russia had.

Today, Russians seem to have many reasons to be content with the status quo.

Fueled by a boom in the price of oil, gross domestic product has grown by 70 percent from 2000 to 2007, real incomes have doubled, and the poverty rate has been cut almost in half. Russia today has more billionaires than any nation except the United States and Germany. Perhaps one-fifth of Russians belong to a fledgling middle class.

Medvedev has pledged to strengthen Russian democracy. But democratic reform may come slowly to Russia, if it comes at all.

While he is barred by the constitution from seeking a third term as president, Putin—whose approval ratings in February hit 85 percent—is likely to be regarded as Russia's national leader for months to come.

President Bush suggested Thursday that one clue about who's in charge will be which of the two—Putin or Medvedev—shows up at the next

Group of Eight gathering of world leaders in July. Asked at a news conference if Medvedev would be Putin's puppet, Bush said he would not reach that conclusion.

As president, Medvedev could one day eclipse Putin. And he may be genuinely seek to reduce the role of the state in the lives of Russians.

But Lev Ponomarev, a Russian human rights activist, argued that it would be illogical for Putin to have labored for eight years as president only to hand-pick a successor who would reverse his policies. "In my opinion, Medvedev tomorrow is just Putin today," he said.

In part, the appeal of Putinism may be rooted in Russia's history of autocratic and authoritarian leaders. In part, it may reflect the trauma of the early years of the post-Soviet era.

Along with many of his countrymen, Putin watched in anguish as the Soviet empire broke up and its constituent states declared independence. He later called the Soviet collapse "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the 20th century."

His first project—begun even before becoming president—was to halt this process, by ending the insurgency in the North Caucasus region of Chechnya.

He launched a war that left the capital of Grozny in ruins. Today, major fighting in Chechnya is largely over: but the victory came at a cost, critics say, of widespread human rights abuses and thousands of deaths.

Putin had watched the Soviet Union stagger to collapse under the weight of its command economy. Initially at least, he had ambitious plans for developing Russia's markets.

He pushed through landmark reforms to the tax system and land codes, helping to lay the groundwork for transferring property—almost all of it in government hands—to private control.

But his drive for economic modernization stalled in the midst of his battles with the so-

called "oligarchs," financiers who made billions in questionable privatization deals under Yeltsin in the 1990s. Putin made a pact: the oligarchs could keep their money if they didn't challenge him politically.

Those who refused were imprisoned—like the former Yukos Oil chief Mikhail Khodorkovsky in 2003—or fled, like the business magnate Boris Berezovsky. Assets of these pariah businessmen, meanwhile, were acquired by state corporations or cooperative tycoons, often at bargain prices.

But Putin's most important legacy may be the extinction of political pluralism.

Under electoral laws adopted in 2006, more than half of political parties were disbanded and liberal democratic opposition figures lost their seats in parliament. Political movements that challenge the Kremlin have been harassed, their activists arrested, their rallies dispersed by club-wielding riot police.

As he engineered the retreat from European-style democracy, Putin looked to resuscitate symbols from the country's autocratic past. At Kremlin ceremonies, guards in uniforms reminiscent of the czarist court stand at attention. Dignitaries are greeted by the strains of the Soviet anthem, the original lyrics of which praised the dictator Josef Stalin.

Now Russia faces the ultimate test of a democracy, nationwide elections. All of the nominally independent institutions needed to keep the elections honest—the courts, the legislature, the media, civic groups, political parties and regional governments—are to one degree or another under the sway of the Kremlin.

Shuster, meanwhile, now hosts television talk shows in Ukraine. When his Russian show was canceled in 2004, he wondered initially whether authorities had a personal grudge against him, but then concluded otherwise: "It was basically the system."

Putin's Kremlin, he said, "could not permit open discussions."

Life & Style

LONDON (AP)—Prince Harry wanted to be “one of the lads,” an ordinary soldier sharing risk and hardship with his men. For 10 weeks, he got his wish—and that may be enough to advance his career in the military.

British defense chiefs announced Friday they were withdrawing him immediately from the combat zone in Afghanistan after his deployment, once a closely guarded secret, became public.

Still, Harry’s hopes of a long-term military career should still be boosted by his time at war—and by the assessment of his commander, Brig. Andrew Mackey, that the prince “acquitted himself with distinction.”

Harry, third in line to the throne, has spoken of his desire to be an ordinary soldier. Unlike his older brother, William, who is also in the army but whose future military role will be largely ceremonial, Harry, 23, sees the military as a career.

In a 2006 interview, he said he would not have gone through the rigors of officer training at Sandhurst military academy only to “sit on my arse back home while my boys are out fighting for their country.”

Although Harry’s deployment ended prematurely, military analysts said it would nonetheless help his army career by allowing him to hold his head high among his comrades.

“It will set him apart from the people who haven’t been on active service,” said Charles Heyman, author of guidebooks to the British military. “That’s the most important thing for a soldier.”

The prince’s deployment had gone undisclosed under an agreement between the Ministry of Defense and major news organizations designed to protect Harry and his fellow soldiers.

An Australian women’s magazine reported on Harry’s deployment last month, but that report received little attention.

In this image made available in London, Thursday Feb. 28, 2008, Britain’s Prince Harry, atop a military vehicle in the Helmand province, Southern Afghanistan Monday February 18, 2008.

AP



For Harry, 10 weeks as ‘one of the lads’

When the news was posted on the Drudge Report Web site on Thursday, the dam burst.

The Ministry of Defense said Friday that worldwide media coverage of Harry’s posting could have risked his and his colleagues’ safety had the prince been allowed to stay in Afghanistan.

Society of Editors director Bob Satchwell, who helped broker the media deal, said the arrangement should not be looked at as precedent-setting.

Media outlets were granted a series of interviews and allowed to take photos and video images of the prince, all to be distributed on a pool basis and used on his return. That material was released after the story leaked out.

“But on the other hand, you should never say never,” he said. “It worked for a significant time, and it allowed Prince Harry to be deployed.”

Conditions were primitive and dangerous, but Harry said the posting offered him a rare sort of freedom.

“I think this is about as normal as I’m ever going to get,” Harry said while serving at a dusty outpost called Forward Operating Base Delhi.

“It’s bizarre,” he reflected. “I’m out here now, haven’t really had a shower for four days, haven’t

“But on the other hand, you should never say never,” he said. “It worked for a significant time, and it allowed Prince Harry to be deployed.”

Harry’s work in Afghanistan’s volatile Helmand province involved calling in airstrikes on Taliban positions, as well as foot patrols. He spent part of his deployment at a base 500 yards from Taliban positions.

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Addressing the question of whether the “troop surge” has worked, Jolie said that “I can only state what I witnessed.”

“When I asked the troops if they wanted to go home as soon as possible, they said that they miss home but feel invested in Iraq,” she wrote. “They have lost many friends and want to be a part of the humanitarian progress they now feel is possible.”

Jolie sees benefit in US surge in Iraq

NEW YORK (AP)—Actress and humanitarian activist Angelina Jolie said Thursday that the reinforcement of U.S. troops in Iraq has created an opportunity for humanitarian programs to boost assistance for Iraqi refugees.

In an op-ed piece published by the Washington Post, titled “A Reason to Stay in Iraq,” Jolie details the plight of refugees and says their conditions have not improved since she visited the country last August to urge governments to provide more support.

Jolie, who has been a U.N. goodwill ambassador since 2001, was in Baghdad earlier this month to again highlight the refugee problem. She talked with Gen. David Petraeus, the American military commander in Iraq, and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, the U.S. Embassy said.

Petraeus “told me he would support new efforts to address the humanitarian crisis” as much as possible, “which leaves me hopeful that more progress



Angelina Jolie arrives at the 2008 Independent Spirit Awards in Santa Monica, Calif. in this Feb. 23, 2008, file photo.

can be made,” the actress wrote.

She said she stressed to Iraqi officials there must be a coherent plan for helping some 2 million Iraqis who are taking advantage of the downturn in violence to begin trickling back to abandoned homes from havens elsewhere in

the country. A similar number fled Iraq to escape the bloodshed.

“It will be quite a while before Iraq is ready to absorb more than 4 million refugees and displaced people,” Jolie wrote. “But it is not too early to start working on solutions.”

The actress, who works on behalf of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, urged America’s presidential candidates and congressional leaders to step up financing for aid to displaced Iraqis. UNHCR has asked for \$261 million this year—“less than the U.S. spends each day to fight the war in Iraq,” she wrote.

Addressing the question of whether the “troop surge” has worked, Jolie said that “I can only state what I witnessed.”

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Museum returns tank to Schwarzenegger

SACRAMENTO, California

(AP)—Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger says he asked an Ohio museum to return his Austrian army tank because he was concerned about the upkeep and wants to offer rides to schoolchildren.

Schwarzenegger, a native of Austria, said he plans to offer the rides to inner-city children in the Los Angeles area as a reward for staying in school, avoiding drugs and working hard.

Warren Motts, founder and director of Motts Military Museum, said Schwarzenegger acquired the M47 American-made tank from the Austrian government and had it shipped to Florida. He transported it to a Columbus, Ohio, shopping mall in 1999 when he opened a Planet Hollywood there.

Schwarzenegger lent the tank to the museum, located in Groveport, in 2000.

“I’m pleased we had the opportunity to have it and let people see it,” Motts said Tuesday. “It was neat to have a Hollywood connection.”

Motts said the tank was removed from the museum Feb. 19, hoisted by crane onto a truck and transported to California.

Aaron McLear, Schwarzenegger’s press secretary, said the governor plans to store the tank at a private location.

Schwarzenegger said he had offered trips to his movie sets as an incentive to kids, but since he became governor and stopped making movies in 2003, he hasn’t had anything enticing to offer.

He said children just aren’t that excited about a tour of the state Capitol.

Schwarzenegger entered the army in 1965, at a time when one year of military service was compulsory in Austria.



In this July 9, 1997 file photo model Katoucha Niane, from Guinea, poses during the presentation of the 1997-98 fall-winter haute couture collection by French fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent in Paris.

Body of top model Katoucha found

PARIS (AP)—The body of Katoucha Niane, one of the first African women to attain international stardom as a model and a vocal opponent of female genital mutilation, was found in the Seine River, police said Friday.

Known simply as Katoucha, the former top model for Yves Saint Laurent and other top designers was found Thursday near the Garigliano bridge in Paris, judicial police in Paris said.

An autopsy showed no signs of foul play, pointing to the possibility that the 47-year-old may have fallen accidentally into the river, they said.

She had been missing since January and was last seen returning home from a party. She lived in a houseboat near Paris' Alexandre III bridge, and her handbag was later found on the boat.

The Guinean-born model told The Associated Press in 1994

that she ran away to Europe at 17 aiming to be a model. Her big break came when Jules-Francois Crahay, then the designer at Lanvin, spotted her in a line-up. The label hired her as a fitting model. Her first catwalk modeling was for Thierry Mugler at the start of the 1980s.

After quitting the runway, she turned to speaking out actively against female circumcision, describing her own experience at age 9 in a book, "Katoucha, In My Flesh," which was published last year.

"I will never get the incomparable pain out of my head," she wrote in the book, which she dedicated to her three children. In the book, she also detailed wild nights of partying, alcohol and drugs.

Vanity Fair's fashion and style director, Michael Roberts, said Katoucha was "one those girls

who used her fame to spotlight the misfortunes of others."

"She always seemed so gracious and very lovely," he said. "She was sunny and she was bright, and I liked her a lot."

Katoucha set up her own label in 1994 after years of modeling for the likes of Christian Lacroix and Saint Laurent. Singers Cher and France's Johnny Hallyday were among the stars who turned out for her show.

"I don't pretend to be like Lacroix, Saint Laurent or the others," she said at the time. "But I was certainly in a great school by wearing their clothes and going to the fittings. I learned several basic lessons, including: Don't cut the fabric until you've got the 'toile,' or heavy linen prototype, just right."

Katoucha was the daughter of Djibril Tamsir Niane, an archaeologist and writer. She said that

her father was initially disappointed that she didn't become "a professional intellectual, with a university degree," but later reconciled to her other successes.

In the months before her death, Katoucha took on her first film role, playing a beautiful and rebellious woman not unlike herself, said Leandre-Alain Baker, director of "Ramata." Filming is complete but a release date has not yet been set.

"She's marvelous in the role," Baker said.

He also said he sensed Katoucha could never entirely free herself from painful childhood experiences—a struggle sometimes apparent in her emotional shifts.

"She could go right from laughter to anger," Baker said. "But she always came back ... and I attribute that to her past, what she experienced and lived through."

Winehouse cleared of witness tampering

LONDON (AP)—Police are no longer investigating Amy Winehouse on suspicion of attempting to interfere with a court case involving her husband, her spokesman said Friday. The 24-year-old singer is no longer required to return to a police station for further questioning, her spokesman, Chris Goodman, said in a statement.

"Amy is pleased to be discounted from the investigation and thanks the police for their professionalism in their dealings

with her," the statement said.

Winehouse was arrested in December after being called to a police station. At the time, she was released on police bail and had been asked to return at a later date for further questioning.

Police said they cannot identify former suspects by name, but they did confirm that prosecutors planned to take no further action



Winehouse

against a 24-year-old arrested in December on suspicion of trying to pervert the course of justice.

Meanwhile, Winehouse's husband, Blake Fielder-Civil, appeared in a London court Friday on charges of attacking a pub landlord and then later conspiring with him to withdraw as a witness at the trial.

Fielder-Civil spoke only to

Frank Sinatra Jr. gets Palm Springs star

Frank Sinatra Jr. attends the unveiling of the Frank Sinatra commemorative postal stamp that will be issued next spring by the United States Postal Service, during a ceremony commemorating Sinatra's 92nd birthday, in Beverly Hills, Calif., in this, Dec. 12, 2007, photo.



PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP)—Frank Sinatra Jr. has joined his famous dad and sister on the Palm Springs Walk of Stars.

The 64-year-old singer received star No. 307 on Palm Canyon Drive.

Sinatra noted that he used to play on the same street as a kid.

"This has been quite a sentimental journey," he said Thursday.

Nancy Sinatra said her brother deserves the honor because he "is practically, single-handedly, keeping the American songbook alive."

He has made numerous records, including a tribute to his late father.

Has Victoria's Secret become too sexy?

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Victoria's Secret, the lingerie company that introduced the Very Sexy bra, the Fantasy Bra, and the Internet server-crashing fashion show, has become "too sexy" for its own good, its top executive said.

"We've so much gotten off our heritage ... too sexy, and we use the word sexy a lot and really have forgotten the ultra feminine," said Sharen Turney, Victoria's Secret's chief executive, in a call with industry analysts.

Victoria's Secret was launched with the idea that Victoria was manor-born and lived

in London, Turney said.

"I feel so strongly about us getting back to our heritage and really thinking in terms of ultra feminine and not just the word sexy and becoming much more relevant to our customer," Turney said Thursday.

Turney said Victoria's Secret has gotten younger with a strong focus on its successful Pink line of lingerie and loungewear created for college-age women, and has tried to chase those customers

Turney said Victoria's Secret wants to increase its level of sophistication.

"We will also reinvent the

sleepwear business and focus on product quality," she said. "Our assortment will return to an ultra feminine lingerie brand to meet her needs and expectation."

Sales at Victoria's Secret, like many clothing retailers, have been slipping.

Victoria Secret's parent, Limited Brands, said Wednesday that its fourth quarter profits fell 12 percent and that its first quarter earnings would come in below Wall Street expectations.

Same-store sales at Victoria's Secret fell 2 percent in 2007, with sales in the fourth quarter dropping 8 percent.

First Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory

We, the Family of the late

Ernie Teigita Dela Cruz



Would like to invite all relatives and friends to join us commemorate his First Year Death Anniversary of his passage unto eternal life.

Mass is being offered at Santa Soledad Mission Parish in Kagman on the following dates and time:

Tuesday	March 4, 2008	6:00 PM
Wednesday	March 5, 2008	6:00 PM
Thursday	March 6, 2008	6:00 PM
Friday	March 7, 2008	6:00 PM
Saturday	March 8, 2008	6:00 PM
Sunday	March 9, 2008	7:30 AM
Monday	March 10, 2008	6:00 PM
Tuesday	March 11, 2008	6:00 PM
Wednesday	March 12, 2008	6:00 PM

Nightly Rosary will also be prayed at the residence in Kagman III, Alageta Road, Puteng Drive at 7:30PM. On the Final Day, Wednesday, March 12, 2008, Rosary will be prayed at the residence after the 6:00 PM mass. Dinner will follow thereafter.

May God Bless Us All

From Velma Dlg. Dela Cruz, Children, and Family

Dad suspects guilty secret is causing mom's instability

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I have had sole custody of my three children from a previous marriage for the past 10 years. Their mother, "Nadine," has mental health issues that prevent her from being a competent parent. She has let them down countless times and has caused emotional scars. As a result, the children have limited contact with Nadine, even though she lives nearby.

Our oldest daughter, "Holly," who is now 22, has chosen not to speak to her mom for more than a year. I believe part of Nadine's mental troubles stem from a secret she has been keeping. I have suspected for years that Holly is not my biological daughter. And if she's not, I know the identity of her biological father.

Do I tell Holly? Do I get a paternity test to find out for sure? My concern is for Holly. Does she have the right to know—especially for understanding her genetic and medical history? I am not worried about our relationship. I love her, and we have a strong father/daughter bond that will not be affected by DNA.

HOLLY'S DAD, IRMO, S.C.

DEAR DAD: For the reason you have stated, the test should be done. For one thing, Holly may turn out to be your daughter after all, and your suspicions would be put to rest. For another, if there are medical issues that run in her biological father's family, she should absolutely know what they are.

DEAR ABBY: I'm being married in October to "Olivia," the woman I am meant to be with. After the wedding, we both want to start a family. I love Olivia and am thrilled with the idea of having children. I worry a lot, though, about what kind of world we will be bringing a child into. I worry about terrorism and global warming. I don't want my child to be scared for his/her safety and uncertain about the future. Can you advise me, Abby?

REALIST IN BROWNS MILLS, N.J.

DEAR REALIST: There are few thinking people these days who don't share the same concerns that you do. The truth is, having children is an act of faith—an optimistic "investment" in the future. No one has any guarantees that he or she can bring a child into a world free of problems. However, if we live prudently and put forth our best efforts to resolve the problems we face today, the chances are better that the next generation will have fewer of them to cope with.

DEAR ABBY: Could you please share suggestions on how to offer support to someone who is grieving?

Well-meaning friends have used my loss as an opportunity to relive their past losses with grisly and sad details. One friend described in detail her husband's final days. I was so emotionally fragile, I could not argue or defend myself.

Perhaps these people are trying to relate, but it's torture. It's thoughtless and selfish. I have a feeling I'm not the only person who has suffered through this ignorance.

GRIEVING ALONE IN FLORIDA

DEAR GRIEVING ALONE: Please accept my deepest sympathy for the loss of your loved one.

Readers, the above letter conveys an important message. What the writer's "well-meaning friends" did happens all too often. It is enough to simply convey one's condolences when someone you know has experienced a death in the family. If the person wants to talk, he or she will let you know by starting a conversation. If not, to begin discussing the details of your own loss is, to say the least, insensitive, intrusive and not helpful.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



Dear Abby

Brazil hospital releases Naomi Campbell

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP)—Naomi Campbell was released Friday from the hospital where she underwent abdominal surgery. The 37-year-old British supermodel, a frequent visitor to Brazil, was admitted for an emergency operation Monday.

"She recovered very well from her surgery," said Mirtes Boga, a spokeswoman for the Sirio Libanes hospital in Sao Paulo. "Doctors signed her release and she left in the afternoon in a helicopter that someone sent to pick her up."

Boga declined to provide further details.

On Tuesday, the model's publicist, Jeff Raymond said she

had been hospitalized "to have a small cyst removed."

She was operated on by gynecologist Jose Aristodemo Pinotti, who would only say he performed abdominal surgery on her.

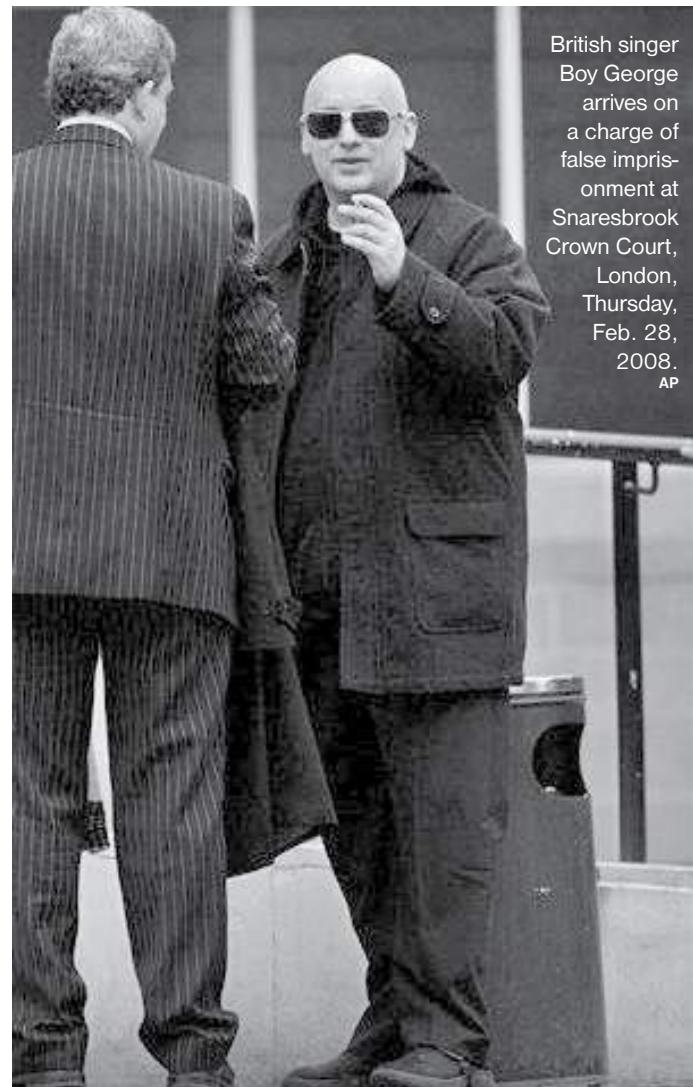
He described the procedure as a laparoscopy, in which doctors use a thin, lighted scope to view internal organs.

"She came to Brazil to be treated for a condition I am not authorized to reveal," he said earlier this week, declining to comment further.

Dr. David Uip, one of Brazil's leading experts in infectious diseases, also cared for Campbell during her stay at the hospital.



Campbell



British singer Boy George arrives on a charge of false imprisonment at Snaresbrook Crown Court, London, Thursday, Feb. 28, 2008. AP

Boy George denies imprisoning charges

LONDON (AP)—Boy George has denied imprisoning a 28-year-old Norwegian man at his London home last year. The former Culture Club singer pleaded not guilty to the charge of false imprisonment during a court hearing in London on Thursday.

Audun Carlsen claims Boy

George handcuffed him to a wall after he went to the singer's apartment as a photo model. The alleged incident took place last April.

Boy George appeared in court under his real name, George O'Dowd. The 46-year-old singer is free on bail and is due to stand trial in November.

Enrique Iglesias to quit before age 50

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Enrique Iglesias plans to leave the spotlight before he turns 50—unlike his famous father, Julio, who is still crooning romantic ballads after four decades.

"I'm not sure I want to be up on a stage when I'm 64 or 65," the 32-year-old pop star told The Associated Press. "In my father's case, I think he's going to die onstage and I respect that very much. In my case, in 15 years I'll probably look ridiculous singing 'Bailamos' ('Let's Dance')."

The Madrid-born artist—who debuted in 1995 with a self-titled album and releases the greatest hits compilation "95/08" in March—said dissatisfaction with his own work is what drives him to continue performing and recording.

"When I listen to my music I think it can still continue to evolve," he said. "After a couple of months go by, I think I could write a better song."

Iglesias said he is striving to make the perfect record—"One you listen to 10, 15, 20 years from now and say, 'Oh! I wouldn't change a thing.'"

"I want to retire in the next 15



AP

Singer Enrique Iglesias, of Spain, shows a 'V' sign as he poses for photographers backstage at the Premio Lo Nuestro Latin Music Awards in Miami, in this Feb. 21, 2008, file photo.

And until Iglesias makes that album, it seems his plans could change.

"I want to retire in the next 15

years," Iglesias said. "But that's what I say now. Who knows if I'll have the courage to do it when the day comes."

In Britain, divorce cases are heard behind closed doors, but the secrecy has only spurred speculation about the possible size of a financial settlement.

Mills, 40, and McCartney, 65, separated in 2006 after four years of marriage. They spent six days in court earlier this month trying—and failing—to decide on Mills' share of the former Beatle's fortune, estimated at up to \$1.6 billion.

Media reports have suggested McCartney offered Mills about \$50 million and that she was seeking at least double that amount.

Mills is a former model whose left leg was amputated below the knee after a motorcycle accident in 1993. She became active in campaigning against land mines and in favor of animal welfare.

The couple have a 4-year-old daughter, Beatrice.

Obama's girls not fans of Britney, Paris

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barack Obama says his two daughters are fans of Hannah Montana and Beyoncé, but think anything to do with Britney Spears and Paris Hilton is "yuck."

The Democratic presidential contender told celebrity magazine Us Weekly that his daughters, Malia, 9, and Sasha, 6, got to meet Beyoncé backstage at a concert and "they just love her to death."

"They're pretty down on Britney and Paris and all of that. They think that's very 'yuck,'" he said.

As for his wife, Michelle, Obama said she has a star crush on Stevie Wonder.

"I've been teasing her because Stevie fell off the stage at one of our events," Obama said. "I said to her, 'This is your favorite performer, and you push him off the stage?' Fortunately, he was OK."

The Illinois senator described himself as a "pretty cool" dad who tries not to embarrass his daughters even when he's dancing on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," as he did in October.

Though campaigning keeps him away from his family, Obama hasn't skipped a parent-teacher conference.

"He did miss one of Sasha's dance recitals in December and was broken up about it," Michelle Obama told the magazine. "No one wants to miss 20 6-year-olds in red cowboy hats tapping to 'These Boots Are Made for Walkin'.'"

Obama's interview with the magazine hit newsstands Friday.

McCartney divorce ruling due March 17

LONDON (AP)—A British judge will give the financial terms of Paul McCartney and Heather Mills' divorce settlement on March 17.

The Judicial Communications Office said Judge Hugh Bennett would deliver his ruling to McCartney, Mills and their lawyers during a private court hearing.

He will then decide, after hearing from their lawyers, whether to make any of the ruling public.

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

2 INTERPRETER (SUN 1572)
Salary:\$700.00/monthly. Benefits:
Employer provided housing; self provided food; transportation free on designated pick-up point; medical and workers compensation employer provided. Korean speaking, reading and writes is a must. Contact: Rainbow Corporation dba Lim's Office/E&F Tours @234-6564.

2 TOUR COUNSELOR (SUN 1573)
Salary:\$700.00/monthly. Benefits:
Employer provided housing; self provided food; transportation free on designated pick-up point; medical and workers compensation employer provided. Korean speaking, reading and writes is a must. Contact: Rainbow Corporation dba Lim's Office/E&F Tours @234-6564.

1 MAINT. REPAIRER, BUILDING (SUN 1574)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; employee provided food; medical & workers compensation employers provided. Contact: Glicerio D. Arago dba NCI Contractor @287-0487/233-2652.

1 MAINTENANCE WORKER (SUN 1575)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing with a charge of \$50.00/monthly; self provided food & workmen's compensation. Contact: Peter Michael Tenorio dba Equitable Realty & Consulting Service. @234-6676.

1 ACCOUNTANT (SUN 1576)
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits:
Self arranged housing; self provided food; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Friendly Finance Co., Inc. @234-6676.

2 COUNTER SUPERVISOR (FSUN 0001)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits:
\$100.00/housing deductible;
\$100.00/food deductible; workmen's compensation & health company provided. Contact: D'Elegance Ent., Inc. dba D'Elegance Rest. @234-9227.

1 MANAGER, RESERVATIONS (FSUN 0002)

Salary:\$1,972.00-\$2,200.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical coverage expenses; vacation leave (earned after 1 yr. of service); compassionate leave; employee's discount & workers compensation. Contact: Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. dba Fiesta Resort & SPA Saipan @234-6412.

1 SALES MANAGER (FSUN 0003)

Salary:\$1,972.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical coverage expenses; vacation leave (earned after 1 yr. of service); sick leave (earned after 90 days of service); compassionate leave; employee's discount & workers compensation. Contact: Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. @234-7171.

1 GUESTS RELATIONS SUPERVISOR (FSUN 0004)

Salary:\$3.55-\$5.37/hour. Benefits: Medical coverage expenses; vacation leave (earned after 1 yr. of service); compassionate leave; employee's discount & workers compensation. Contact: Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. @234-7171.

1 PLUMBER (FSUN 0005)

Salary:\$3.55-\$5.00/hour. Benefits: Medical coverage expenses; personal leave (earned after 1 yr. of service); compassionate leave; employee's discount & workers compensation. Contact: Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. @234-7171.

1 FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER (FSUN 0006)

Salary:\$1,972.00-\$2,500.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical coverage expenses; vacation leave (earned after 1 yr. of service); sick leave (earned after 90 days of service); compassionate leave; employee's discount & workers compensation. Contact: Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. @234-7171.

1 MANAGER (FSUN 0007)

Salary:\$3.75/hour. Benefits: ER provide housing; self provide food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: EEA Corporation @288-6192.

1 DRESS MAKER (FSUN 0008)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provide food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: BJF Enterprises Inc. @323-8181.

1 HOUSEWORKER (FSUN 0009)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; free food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Norma M. Agana @234-9721.

1 CARE GIVER (FSUN 0010)

Salary:\$400.00/semi-monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: John & Shirley A. Wilson @288-1816.

1 HOUSEWORKER (FSUN 0011)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; free food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Danilo E. Asiatico @288-4426.

1 COOK (FSUN 0012)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation.

Contact: Danilo E. Asiatico dba MJ BBQ & Retail @288-1681.
1 GEN. MANAGER (FSUN 0013)

Salary:\$4.05/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Global Ocean Divers Inc. @233-8157.

2 DIVING INSTRUCTOR (FSUN 0014)

Salary:\$4.05/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Global Ocean Divers Inc. @233-8157.

1 MANAGER (FSUN 0015)

Salary:\$5.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Thai Massage Inc. dba Massage Service @233-2441.

4 MASSEUSE/MASSEUR (FSUN 0016)

Salary:\$5.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Thai Massage Incorporated dba Thai Massage @233-2441.

1 WEDDING CONSULTANT, SUPERVISOR (FSUN 0017)

Salary:\$3.55-\$10.90/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; \$200.00/monthly allowance & \$30.00/monthly allowance transportation; medical & workers compensation insurance provided by employer. Contact: Watabe Saipan, Inc. dba Watabe Wedding @235-9332.

1 ELECTRICIAN (FSUN 0018)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: KP Company Ltd. @322-0007.

1 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (SUNT 0001)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable & workers compensation insurance. Contact: Felipe L. Kalen dba Community Service Plus @322-0113.

1 COOK (SUNT 0002)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Tai Hu Int'l Inc. @233-2288.

1 FLORIST (SUNT 0003)

Salary:\$3.75/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Keebenton Int'l Inc. @233-2288.

1 SUPERVISOR (SUNT 0004)

Salary:\$3.75/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food;

workers compensation & medical. Contact: Keebenton Int'l Inc. @233-2288.

1 MERCHANTISE DISPLAYER (SUNT 0005)

Salary:\$3.75/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Keebenton Int'l Inc. @233-2288.

1 BLDG. MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (SUNT 0006)

Salary:\$3.65/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Keebenton Int'l Inc. @233-2288.

1 ADMIN. ASSISTANCE (SUNT 0007)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Keebenton Int'l Inc. @233-2288.

1 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (SUNT 0008)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Keebenton Int'l Inc. @233-2288.

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)

	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements in Saipan that include corresponding benefits and which positions are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES



1 COOK (FSUN 0019)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmans compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Auntie Mag's Food & Catering dba Auntie Mag's Food & Catering @288-4799.

2 FOOD SERVER (FSUN 0020)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmans compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Auntie Mag's Food & Catering dba Auntie Mag's Food & Catering @288-4799.

1 WAREHOUSE WORKER
(FSUN 0021)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmans compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Auntie Mag's Food & Catering dba Auntie Mag's Food & Catering @288-4799.

2 FOOD ATTENDANT
(FSUN 0022)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmans compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Auntie Mag's Food & Catering dba Auntie Mag's Food & Catering @288-4799.

2 KITCHEN HELPER
(FSUN 0023)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmans compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Auntie Mag's Food & Catering dba Auntie Mag's Food & Catering @288-4799.

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
(FSUN 0024)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; provided own food; workers compensation; medical covered & free transportation. Contact: Advance Group, LLC dba Advance X-Terminators & Pest Control @233-4747.

1 MANAGER (FSUN 0025)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; free food on duty; workers compensation & medical provided by employer. Contact: Saigon Enterprises, Inc. dba Saigon Vietnam Restaurant @233-6868.

2 COOK (FSUN 0026)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Ming Dynasty Investment Corp. dba Ming Palace Chinese Restaurant @234-1005.

1 WAITRESS/WAITER
(FSUN 0027)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Ming Dynasty Investment Corp. dba Ming Palace Chinese Restaurant @234-1005.

1 BARTENDER (FSUN 0028)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Ming Dynasty Investment Corp. dba Ming Palace Chinese Restaurant @234-1005.

1 CARPENTER (FSUN 0029)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrate Gen. Construction @234-6241.

2 MASON (FSUN 0030)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided

food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrate Gen. Construction @234-6241.

1 CARPET LAYER (FSUN 0031)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrate Gen. Construction @234-6241.

1 BLDG. MAINTENANCE

REPAIRER (FSUN 0032)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrate Gen. Construction @234-6241.

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

(FSUN 0033)
Salary:\$3.75/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrate Gen. Construction @234-6241.

1 BDLG. MAINTENANCE

(CLEANER) REPAIRER
(FSUN 0034)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrate Gen. Construction @234-6241.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER

(FSUN 0035)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrate Gen. Construction @234-6241.

1 GRAPHICS DESIGNER

(FSUN 0036)
Salary:\$1,670.00/monthly. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Hi-Five Co., Ltd. @233-4616.

1 INTERPRETER (ASSISTANT
ADVISOR) (FSUN 0037)

Salary:\$1,000.00-\$1,500.00/
monthly. Benefits: Workers compen-
sation & medical expenses
company provided. Contact: Hi-Five
Co., Ltd. @233-4616.

1 ACCOUNTING MANAGER

(FSUN 0038)
Salary:\$1,211.54-\$1,332.70/monthly.
Benefits: Free housing if no A/C;
medical insurance; vacation leave &
workers compensation. Contact:
Triple J Saipan, Inc. @234-1795.

3 CAR RENTAL CLERK

(FSUN 0039)
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.15/hour. Benefits:
Free housing if no A/C; medical
insurance; vacation leave & workers
compensation. Contact: Triple J
Rentals (Micronesia), Inc. dba Hertz
Rent A Car @234-1795.

1 LOT ATTENDANT

(SUPERVISOR) (FSUN 0040)

Salary:\$4.33-\$4.50/hour. Benefits:
Free housing if no A/C; medical
insurance; vacation leave & workers
compensation. Contact: Heroe Ent., Inc. dba Mountain
Fresh Water @234-3588.

1 AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC

(FSUN 0041)

Salary:\$3.90-\$4.15/hour. Benefits:
Free housing if no A/C; medical
insurance; vacation leave & workers
compensation. Contact: Heroe Ent., Inc. dba Diesel Equip.
Service @234-3588.

Rentals (Micronesia), Inc. dba Hertz
Rent A Car @234-1795.

1 ETHYLENE COMPRESSOR
OPERATOR (FSUN 0042)

Salary:\$4.40-\$4.65/hour. Benefits:
Free housing if no A/C; medical
insurance; vacation leave & workers
compensation. Contact: Triple
J Five Star Wholesale Foods, Inc.
@322-6502.

1 ACCOUNTANT (FSUN 0043)

Salary:\$6.06-\$6.31/hour. Benefits:
Free housing if no A/C; medical
insurance; vacation leave & workers
compensation. Contact: Triple
J Five Star Wholesale Foods, Inc.
@322-6502.

1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE
REPAIRER (FSUN 0044)

Salary:\$3.55-\$6.25/hour. Benefits:
Self arranged food; medical coverage
expenses & workers compensation.
Contact: Joseph C. Ada dba
Ada's Apartment @234-6854.

1 GEN. MAINTENANCE &
REPAIR (FSUN 0045)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self
provided housing; self provided
food; medical & workman's com-
pensation provided. Contact: Dr.
Vicente S. Aldan @235-8864.

1 OPERATION MANAGER
(SUNT 0017)

Salary:\$4.00-\$5.50/hour. Benefits:
Medical expenses & workers
compensation. Contact: C&R
Corporation dba C&R Distributors
@235-7379.

1 ACCOUNTANT (SUNT 0018)

Salary:\$3.55-\$6.00/hour. Benefits:
Company provided housing; self
provided food; workmen's compen-
sation & medical coverage. Contact:
Juan T. Guerrero & Associates, Inc.
@234-8803/04.

1 ACCOUNTANT (SUNT 0019)

Salary:\$3.55-\$6.00/hour. Benefits:
Self arranged housing; self provided
food; workmen's compensation &
medical coverage. Contact: Juan T.
Guerrero & Associates, Inc. @234-
8803/04.

1 CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRE-
SENTATIVE (SUNT 0020)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self ar-
ranged housing; self provided food;
workmen's compensation & medical
coverage. Contact: Insurance &
Business Management Corp. dba
Mita Travel @234-7888.

1 ACCOUNTANT (SUNT 0021)

Salary:\$3.55-\$5.00/hour. Benefits:
Company provided housing; self
provided food; workers compensation
& medical coverage. Contact:
Insurance & Business Manage-
ment Corp. dba Mita Travel @234-
7888.

1 SALES ROUTE DRIVER

(SUNT 0022)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self
housing; self food; workers compen-
sation & medical insurance. Contact:
Heroe Ent., Inc. dba Mountain
Fresh Water @234-3588.

1 WELDER (SUNT 0023)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self
housing; self food; workers compen-
sation & medical insurance. Contact:
Heroe Ent., Inc. dba Diesel Equip.
Service @234-3588.

SPORTS



AP

Barry Bonds arrives at the San Francisco Federal Building in San Francisco, in this Dec. 7, 2007 file photo. Bonds' lawyers are scheduled to ask U.S. District Court Judge Susan Illston on Friday, Feb. 29, 2008 to dismiss a federal indictment charging him with perjury and obstruction of justice for his grand jury testimony, in which he denied knowingly using illegal performance-enhancing drugs.

Judge unseals Barry Bonds' testimony

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A federal judge on Friday unsealed Barry Bonds' grand jury testimony, an order that would make public what the home run king said under oath about his use of performance-enhancing drugs.

Federal prosecutors accused Bonds of lying under oath during his December 2003 testimony to a grand jury investigating steroid use in professional sports, and a separate grand jury indicted on him on four counts of perjury and one count of obstruction.

U.S. District Judge Susan Illston signed an order Friday making Bonds' testimony public after ordering prosecutors to amend Bonds' indictment so each of the five counts against him don't cite multiple allegedly false statements. Prosecutors are expected to decide whether to seek a new indictment before Bonds' next court date on March 21. They declined comment outside court.

Bonds was not required to attend Friday's hearing and has been excused from the next court date, too.

The November indictment came just three months after the San Francisco Giants star

broke Hank Aaron's career home run record, and it culminated a four-year investigation into steroid use by elite athletes.

During his grand jury appearance in 2003, prosecutors presented Bonds with a drug test showing a positive steroids result for a player they called "Barry B." Bonds said he had never seen those test results.

Investigators said they

seized other evidence against Bonds, including an alleged "doping calendar" maintained by Anderson, who spent about a year in jail for refusing to help investigators.

Anderson, who was released after Bonds was indicted, is expected to be called to testify if Bonds' case goes to trial. Anderson maintains he will refuse to testify if ordered, meaning he could return to prison.

Bonds, who has not signed with a team for the 2008 season, posted a message on his Web site Thursday, but did not mention his criminal case.

"I have been getting a lot of e-mails asking what I've been up to this past offseason. This winter has been the first time in my career that I've had the chance to take time for myself and really enjoy the time off. While at home with my family I have been able to work out of my office concentrating on my various companies, attending meetings as well as making a few business trips," Bonds said in a posting on barrybonds.com.

"I continue to work out and feel in great shape. Thank you again for your continued support for me and my family; it truly helps keep me strong."

Eagles sign free-agent CB Samuel



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The Philadelphia Eagles got the defensive play-maker they desperately needed, signing free-agent cornerback Asante Samuel to a six-year contract on Friday.

Samuel, an All-Pro and Pro Bowl selection this past season, spent the last five seasons with the New England Patriots and had 16 interceptions the last two seasons. The Eagles wasted little time making an offer, reportedly worth up to \$60 million, on the first day of free agency.

"We regarded Asante as the No. 1 available free agent in the NFL," Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie said.

The Eagles badly needed a shutdown corner like Samuel. Philadelphia had only 11 interceptions last year and failed to score a defensive touchdown. Its defense had an NFL-worst 19 takeaways.

Samuel, a fourth-round draft

pick in 2003, also tied the NFL career playoff record with three interceptions returned for TDs

Samuel, who won two Super Bowl rings, has 22 career interceptions. He was protected by New England last year by the franchise player tag.

"I just want a chance to be able to win and get back to the Super Bowl," Samuel said.

Samuel tied Denver's Champ Bailey for the NFL lead with 10 interceptions in 2006 and returned two more picks for touchdowns in the postseason against the Jets and Colts. His 12 total interceptions in the 2006 regular season and playoffs were the highest combined single-season total in Patriots history.

The move means the Eagles will likely trade or shift positions for either Lito Sheppard or Sheldon Brown.

Sheppard, a two-time Pro Bowl selection, is reportedly unhappy with his contract. The Eagles denied a report earlier this month that Sheppard had



cornerback, or, what was Sheppard's starting job.

"When you have an opportunity to get the best one in the business, then you need to look at that," Reid said.

Samuel hoped Sheppard and Brown would be on the roster and felt the trio could give the Eagles perhaps the best secondary in the NFL.

When asked if he felt underappreciated in New England, Samuel declined to comment.

He said the Eagles were on the top of a list of four teams he considered visiting. After the Eagles gave him a hard sell on the first day free agents could sign, Samuel decided to stay in Philly.

"When you come to one that makes you happy, why wait around?" Samuel said.

Samuel is the latest in a line of former New England Super Bowl winners who have moved on, joining Deion Branch, Adam Vinatieri, David Givens and Daniel Graham.

Philadelphia Eagles football coach Andy Reid, left, sits next to cornerback Asante Samuel as Samuel speaks during a news conference in Philadelphia, Friday, Feb. 29, 2008. The Eagles agreed to a six-year contract on Friday with Samuel, who spent the last five seasons with New England and had 16 interceptions the last two years.

asked for or been given permission to seek a trade. He signed a five-year extension in November 2004.

Eagles coach Andy Reid said Samuel will be the starting left

Clemens a no-show at Astros camp



KISSIMMEE, Fla.

(AP)—Roger Clemens was a no-show when Houston Astros minor leaguers went through their usual drills at spring training on Friday. The Rocket flew home to Houston instead of working with the young prospects for a third straight day, said his oldest son, Koby, a catcher in the Astros' system.

Clemens departed the day after the FBI said it opened an investigation into whether he lied in sworn testimony about steroids.

Houston Astros owner Drayton McLane said Friday he will honor Clemens' 10-year personal services contract despite the FBI's decision. McLane said that reports that he was reconsidering Clemens' contract because of his legal issues were "overstated."

"All the legal troubles, does that jeopardize this?" he said. "My answer was, 'I don't know where that's going. We'll just have to wait and evaluate what happens.' But I don't see anything that's occurred right now that would jeopardize his contract. That's what was overstated."

Clemens' contract begins after he retires. He threw batting practice to minor leaguers on Wednesday and Thursday, but McLane said he did it voluntarily and did not get paid. The Astros said earlier in the week that Clemens also planned to work with the minor leaguers on Friday.

Koby Clemens said his father wanted to fly home to attend a baseball tournament in which his younger brothers were par-



Catcher Koby Clemens, right, watches his dad, Roger Clemens, left, throw at batting practice during a workout at the Houston Astros minor league spring training facility Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2008 in Kissimmee, Fla.

ticipating. Koby said Roger will return to Florida, but he did not know when, and added that his mother and three brothers also will come.

On Thursday, the FBI said it took over the Clemens case after Congress asked the Justice Department to look into Clemens' testimony at a Feb. 5 deposition and a Feb. 13 hearing. Clemens could face charges of perjury, making false statements or obstruction of justice. McLane said he was not familiar enough with the wording in the contract to know how an indictment might affect Clemens' agreement.

"I'm just dealing in the present of where we are today," McLane said. "I don't know where this will lead. I don't know how this fits into the con-

tract. There is no doubt, we will honor the contract. We're not looking for any reason to back out of the contract. I think Roger, long term, can be an asset to the Houston Astros."

McLane planned to meet Saturday with general manager Ed Wade and president of baseball operations Tal Smith to evaluate whether they want Clemens to continue to help with their minor leaguers. Reporters and photographers have followed Clemens' every move since he started working out with players Wednesday.

McLane expressed concern that Clemens' presence was proving a distraction.

"Not necessarily a bad thing. It creates a lot of attention," McLane said. "There are good

points and bad points. Roger, in the 16 years I've been involved with the Houston Astros, he's the most charismatic person I've ever seen. Just his presence changes everything."

Despite the media surge this week, Koby said he and his teammates enjoyed having his father at their practices.

"It's nothing but positivity and great stuff. He brings so much to the table," Koby said. "Everybody loves it and he's so much fun when he gets out there. Everybody kind of has a little bit of fun and jokes around. It was good to have him out here."

McLane said he last met with Clemens and his agents, Alan and Randy Hendricks, after the release of the Mitchell Report.

"Roger is a good person," McLane said. "I met with him back in December and he said, 'I clearly don't want to be a distraction.' He genuinely means that."

Koby said his father hasn't seemed preoccupied with his ongoing legal issues.

"Besides some of the new stuff that they've talked about, it's pretty much died down," Koby said. "We're thinking spring training baseball and trying to get positive for that."

Baseball union could OK valid HGH test

FORTLAUDERDALE, Fla.

(AP)—Players' union leader Donald Fehr would consider approving blood testing for the human growth hormone if there was a valid, efficient procedure for determining its use over an extended period.

Under baseball's collective bargaining agreement, urine tests for performance-enhancing substances are administered, although HGH cannot be detected in current urine tests. The World Anti-Doping Agency says a blood test for HGH will be used at the Olympics, but no validated blood test for HGH currently is commercially available.

"If and when a blood test is available and it can be signed and validated by people other than those that are trying to sell it to you, then we'd have to take a hard look at it," Fehr said Thursday. "We'd have to see what it is and try to make a judgment as to whether it is fair and appropriate."

Such a test would have to be agreed upon in discussions between owners and the union.

New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter said this month he "wouldn't mind" a blood test for HGH, and several of his teammates echoed that stance.

"Roger is a good person," McLane said. "I met with him back in December and he said, 'I clearly don't want to be a distraction.' He genuinely means that."

Koby said his father hasn't seemed preoccupied with his

Houston wins 14th straight



HOUSTON (AP)—Tracy McGrady had 25 points and six assists, and the Houston Rockets beat the Memphis Grizzlies 116-95 on Friday to extend their winning streak to 14, the longest streak in the NBA this season.

They are one shy of the longest winning streak in franchise history, reached twice, with the last time coming in their championship season of 1993-94.

The Grizzlies have lost seven straight.

The Rockets started Dikembe Mutombo in place of the injured Yao Ming and also used Carl Landry and Luis Scola. Mutombo finished with 13 rebounds and four points in 18 minutes, while Scola and Landry had 15 points apiece.

Hornets 110, Jazz 98

At New Orleans, Chris Paul had 24 points and 16 assists, David West had 25 points and 13 rebounds, and New Orleans held on to beat Utah for the first time in three meetings this season.

Mavericks 115, Kings 106

At Dallas, Jason Kidd, benched for the final 34 seconds of a pivotal game the previous night in part because he was reluctant to shoot, scored a season-high 21 points and was an assist shy of his 100th triple-double.

Cavaliers 92, Timberwolves 84

At Cleveland, LeBron James had 30 points and 13 assists, showing no effects after spraining his right ankle on Wednesday.

Pacers 122, Raptors 111

At Toronto, Mike Dunleavy matched his career high with 36 points, Kareem Rush added 23 and Indiana beat Toronto, which lost All-Star Chris Bosh to a sore knee in the first quarter.

Celtics 108, Bobcats 100

At Boston, Ray Allen scored 22 points and Kendrick Perkins added 19 in Boston's fourth straight victory.

Hawks 99, Knicks 93

At Atlanta, Mike Bibby set up a go-ahead, alley-oop dunk by Josh Smith with 1:12 left, and Atlanta overcame a shaky start to the fourth quarter to beat New York.

Bibby had his second straight double-double with 11 points and 10 assists. Smith had 25 points and nine rebounds.

Wizards 97, Bulls 91

At Chicago, Antawn Jamison, Roger Mason and Andray Blatche each scored 17 points, and struggling Washington used a third-quarter surge to overcome an 18-point deficit



Memphis Grizzlies' Michael Conley, right, goes to the basket against Houston Rockets center Dikembe Mutombo of Congo during the second half of a basketball game Friday, Feb. 29, 2008, in Houston.

and beat Chicago.

The Wizards started the third on a 22-1 run and outscored the

Bulls 35-14 in the period to turn a 52-34 deficit into a 69-66 lead, a quick and stunning turnaround

ing to try to work hard, play well and if I make the money and do it, then great," said Hart, who made more than \$300,000 with a third-place finish at Pebble Beach. "But if I don't, it's not going to kill me. I have three kids, a healthy wife at home and a lot of good things going on there."

Duval hasn't bounced back so well.

He was over par on eight of his 18 holes Friday, including three double bogeys. Duval hasn't earned a penny this year in five starts, meaning he has 15 chances left to make the \$713,235 (\$470,300) he needs to reach what would have been 125th on last year's money list.

Davis is on pace to make that, and plenty more, this weekend.

With seven first-time champions in the past 12 years, the Honda—which pays \$990,000 (\$653,000) to the winner—is a haven for those seeking a breakthrough victory, a fact not lost on Davis.

He's winless in 98 events on tour. He's never had such a good chance to change that, either.

"It's a welcome return to form," Davis said. "And it's where you want to be."

didn't have the same sentiment.

Defending champion Mark Wilson shot his second straight 73 and missed the cut, along with other notables Mike Weir, Chris DiMarco, Rich Beem and Fred Funk. Tadd Fujikawa, the 17-year-old from Honolulu, still hasn't made the cut as a pro after missing by 10 shots, and David Duval missed by six.

The cut was 4-over 144, and

77 players made it—meaning the tour's new "second cut" policy won't come into play after Saturday's round. If more than 78 advanced

Friday, the tour would have trimmed again to the low 70 and ties following the third round, under an amended plan newly installed this week.

Duval, like Hart, has a major medical exemption this year because of health problems endured by his wife in 2007. Hart—whose wife fell seriously ill last year but is now healthy—is only about \$150,000 (\$99,000) shy of what he needed to make this year, yet says he isn't spending much time thinking about it.

"I came out this year and I just said, you know, I'm go-

The Honda Classic

a few hiccups around here," Davis said.

Some fewer than others, though.

John Mallinger (67) and Ben Crane (66) were tied for fourth, three shots off the lead. Ernie Els shot a 70 and was in a group of six players, including Mark Calcavecchia and Robert Alenby, five shots behind Davis.

First-round leader Luke Donald shot a 74, including a quadruple bogey on the 14th, to fall six shots back.

Hart played in the afternoon, when the wind picked up and the course, theoretically, was significantly harder than in the morning session. But he went out in 29, and only a double bogey at the par-3 17th kept him from finishing the day with a share of the lead.

"You don't birdie six in a row very often," Hart said. "You know, everybody out here has gone through stretches where they have done that. It's just hard to describe, really. Just things are clicking right, and the putts are falling, and good things are happening."

Davis made a double bogey at the par-3 7th, his 16th of the day, then missed the green to the right and slid a 10-foot par try just past the cup on his final hole.

"I'm sure every player's got

for a team that shot just 27.9 percent in the first half. Washington then pulled away late in the fourth to win.

Nuggets 110, Clippers 104

At Denver, Allen Iverson scored 38 points, including two big jumpers in the final two minutes, and Carmelo Anthony added 30, helping the Denver Nuggets hold on for a 110-104 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Iverson put the Nuggets ahead for good with an 18-foot, off-balance floater with 1:23 remaining. Anthony sealed the Nuggets' second straight win with a layup and two free throws in the final 43 seconds.

Heat 103, Sonics 93

At Seattle, Dwyane Wade scored 31 points, leading the Miami Heat to a 103-93 victory over the Seattle SuperSonics.

Wade, who had consecutive sub-20-point games this week for the first time this season, helped give the Heat (11-52) just their third victory in the past 30 games.

Blazers 119, Lakers 111

At Portland, Oregon, Brandon Roy returned after missing two games with a sprained right ankle and had 20 points and 12 assists, leading the Portland Trail Blazers to a 119-111 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers, who had their 10-game winning streak snapped.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 22 points for Portland, which also snapped the Lakers' seven-game winning streak on the road.

Warriors 119, 76ers 97

At Oakland, Calif., Brandan Wright got Golden State off to a quick start by eclipsing his career high in scoring before the end of the first quarter, Mickael Pietrus scored a season-high 23 points, and the Warriors beat the Philadelphia 76ers 119-97.

Wright, a little-used rookie, scored 11 of his 12 points—one more than his previous best scoring game—in the first quarter of his third start, and the Warriors never trailed on the way to their sixth win in eight games.

Tribune Sports Scores

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	45	12	.789	
Toronto	32	25	.561	13
New Jersey	26	32	.448	19 1/2
Philadelphia	26	33	.441	20
New York	18	40	.310	27 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	37	23	.617	
Washington	28	30	.483	8
Atlanta	24	32	.429	11
Charlotte	19	39	.328	17
Miami	11	45	.196	24

Central Division

Detroit	42	16	.724	
Cleveland	33	26	.559	9 1/2
Chicago	23	35	.397	19
Indiana	23	36	.390	19 1/2
Milwaukee	22	36	.379	20

WESTERN CONFERENCE

San Antonio	39	17	.696	
New Orleans	39	18	.684	1/2
Dallas	39	20	.661	1/2
Houston	38	20	.655	2
Memphis	14	44	.241	26

Northwest Division

Utah	37	22	.627	
Denver	35	23	.603	1/2
Portland	31	28	.525	6
Seattle	15	43	.259	21 1/2
Minnesota	12	45	.211	24

Pacific Division

LA Lakers	41	18	.695	
Phoenix	39	19	.672	1/2
Golden State	35	22	.614	5
Sacramento	26	32	.448	14 1/2
LA Clippers	19	37	.339	20 1/2

Honda Classic Scores

SECOND ROUND

Brian Davis	65	67	132
Matt Jones	66	67	133
Dudley Hart	68	66	134
John Mallinger			

The Week in Sports

Marianas Cup, SML opening grab headlines



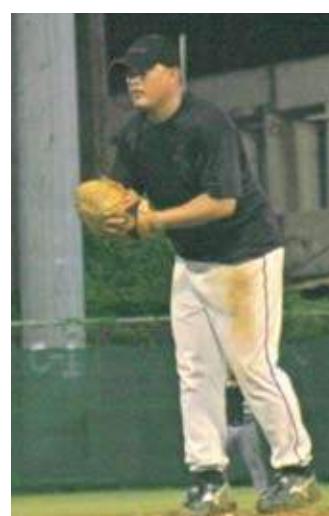
Paul Baxter, right, goes for a spike as Phil Dalhausser attempts for the block in their game in the 16th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival last week at the Pacific Islands Club sand courts.



JON PEREZ
Ford Rangers pitcher Mel Sakisat prepares to throw at the plate in their game against Rock Steady in the 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League Wednesday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.



JON PEREZ
The Tigers' Ben Duenas winds up a pitch.



JON PEREZ
Tanapag Falcons pitcher Joshua Muna prepares to throw at the plate in their game against the Tigers last Tuesday at the opening of the 2008 season of the 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.



JON PEREZ
Hyatt Regency Saipan's Edmark Mendoza goes for a baseline drive against Hafadai Beach Hotel's Marlon Bamba in their game in the 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



JON PEREZ
Hafadai Beach Hotel's Adrian Bacolod, center, finds himself trapped by the defense of Krisgel Arreza, back, and Dexter Dillay of Hyatt Regency Saipan in their game in the 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 16th Annual Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival and the opening of the 2008 season of the Budweiser-Saipan Major League dominated sports headlines last week.

The Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival was held over the weekend at Pacific Islands Club sand courts with the duo of Paul Baxter and Randy Steele winning the men's division.

Baxter and Steele completed their title bid by sweeping their last five games in Sunday's final round, including a dominating 21-13 win over deposed champions Daisuke Matsumoto and Shigekazu Fujimatsu in the championship match.

The two split the \$3,800 top purse including an all-expenses paid trip back to next year's Marianas Cup. They also won a free stay at PIC throughout the duration of the contest.

In the women's side, Yoko Miki and Chie Iwana foiled the upset bid of Federica Tonon and Dawn Penebaker to claim the title and the \$3,600 top purse.

Last Tuesday, meanwhile, saw the 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League kick off at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field with the defending champions Tanapag Falcons debuting strong with a win over Tigers, 13-6.

In other sports news last week, a gold-level coach from Australia visited Saipan, XTERRA Global Tour managing director Dave "Big Kahuna" Nicholas returned to Saipan, and on a sad note, former CNMI national player Roderick "Rick" Alegre's remains was flown home to the Philippines.

Australia gold-level coach Bernie Mulroy spent almost two days on Saipan to help local swimmers improve their skills and work on their techniques.

The coaching director of the City of Perth Swimming Club in Australia arrived on Saipan last Monday and spent Tuesday and Wednesday morning with the coaches of the Saipan Swim Club and Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan.

In his return, Nicholas said he is pretty happy that Taga Inc., the organization that took over the staging of this year's 6th XTERRA Saipan Champion-

ship, is doing a great job in handling the "crown jewel of the XTERRA Global Tour."

Nicholas arrived on Saipan at 2am Thursday morning, together with XTERRA Global Tour support services manager Tyson Pualoa and longtime Saipan resident Wilhem "Bill" Sakovich, who will serve as this year's course director.

The remains of Alegre, meanwhile, were flown back to his home country last Saturday after his family and friends held separate services at the Commonwealth Health Center chapel and at the Pentecostal Church in San Jose Friday night.

More than 200 packed the final service at the Pentecostal Church in San Jose where Alegre's brother Mario and pastor Ramir Trinidad delivered separate eulogies.

The week also saw the continuation of games in the Saipan Little League Baseball Association, SBA Open 8-Ball League, and 2008 Indoor Winter Volleyball League as well as the resumption of the 2007-2008 HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League, which took a weeklong hiatus in respect to the departed Alegre.



MARK RABAGO
The organizing committee of the Tagaman and XTERRA Saipan Championship pose for a group photo during a meeting held recently in time for the 2008 Saipan Sportsfest at the Marianas Visitors Authority office.



MARK RABAGO
Perfect Spotter members pose for a group shot during a lull in their match against USSP Fotten Palau at USS Peleliu Club last Tuesday night in the SBA Open 8-Ball League.



HIRO KIMURA
Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan members are busy washing a car during their carwash fundraiser last Sunday at McDonald's Middle Road.

DAN KIMBALL



DAN KIMBALL
Australia gold-level coach Bernie Mulroy makes a point during the swimming clinic participated in by the Saipan Swim Club and Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan Wednesday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.



Judge unseals Barry Bonds' testimony

A federal judge on Friday unsealed Barry Bonds' grand jury testimony, an order that would make public what the home run king said under oath about his use of performance-enhancing drugs.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

28 SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2008

Houston wins 14th straight

Tracy McGrady had 25 points and six assists, and the Houston Rockets beat the Memphis Grizzlies 116-95 on Friday to extend their winning streak to 14, the longest streak in the NBA this season.

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SSC leading way in international meet

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Saiyan Swim Club is currently leading the way after the first full day of competitions in the 2008 International Invitational Meet on Friday at the Kan Pacific Pool in Marpi.

Out of the 27 events that took place on Friday, SSC swimmers topped eight of them to accumulate an unofficial one-day total of 226 points with still a full days worth of competitions left in the annual tournament.

Placing second is Manukai Athletic Club of Guam with 111 points while Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan had 94 followed by Tarakito's 80 and the 77

of Tsunami Guam. The Typhoons had 65 points to complete the list of competing teams.

Veterans Sarah Johnson, Kai Staal, and Cooper Graf along with the youthful Grace Kimball and Lester Lapuz led SSC's charge.

Johnson had first place finishes in the girls' 800m freestyle and 200m backstroke while Staal topped the boys' 13-14 200m breaststroke and



Participants in the 2008 International Invitational Meet prepare to jump in the water at the starting block in yesterday's second day of competitions at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

backstroke events.

Graf won the boys' 1,500m freestyle while Kimball and Lapuz added the girls' 11-12 100m backstroke and 400m IM events under SSC's belt while their girls' 10-and-under team won the 200m medley relay.

Kaito Yanai (boys' 8and-under 100m breaststroke and 100m backstroke) and Marystar Welch (girls' 13-14 200m breaststroke and 200m

backstroke led Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan's charge winning their respective events.

Kensuke Kimura added the boys' 11-12 100m breaststroke title while Rezne Wong won the boys' 400m IM.

Tsunami Guam had five first place finishes starting off with the victory of Hiroko Watanabe and Shawn Fujii in the girls' and boys' 9-10 100m breaststroke and 100m backstroke events.

Kazuki Aricayos added the boys' 11-12 100m backstroke.

Manukai Athletic Club and Tarakito Swim Team had three first place finishes each with the Typhoons earning two.

MAC was led by the victories of Danielle Atoique in the girls' 8-and-under 100m breaststroke and backstroke events while Kazuki Aricayos added the boys' 11-12 100m backstroke to their win.

Multiple winners lead NMSA nominees

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Multiple winners of the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association's athletes of the month will lead the list of nominees for the coveted NMSA athlete of the year honors.

Sprinters Tyrone Omar, Jacque Wonenberg, and Yvonne Bennett, swimmers Cooper Graf and Sarah Johnson, and netters Ji Hoon Heo and Thea Minor will be contending with other athletes for the NMSA's awards in the adult and student category.

Omar is a two-time Male Athlete of the Month winner winning the monthly title in April and August.

He was named the April male athlete after winning the 100m and 200m runs in the Marianas Invitational Track and Field Meet where he recorded a personal best time of 10.81 seconds in the century dash.

Omar duplicated the feat in August when he broke his own mark in the 100m dash establishing a new CNMI national record while competing. He recorded a 11.09-second finish to break his own mark of 11.12 seconds while competing in the IAAF World Championships in Osaka City, Osaka, Japan.

In the female category, sprinter Bennett and swimmer Johnson are among the top contenders for the Female Athlete of the Year category. Bennett earned the monthly honors three times while Johnson is a two-time monthly winner.

Bennett won in May after setting a new meet and CNMI records in the 100m dash and 200m run in the Mc-

Donald's All-Schools Track and Field Championships and the Guam high School All-Island Meet in both events.

She earned the August honors after breaking her own record in the 100m run in the IAAF World Championships in Osaka City, Osaka, Japan where she finished seventh in her heat.

Bennett then competed in the 3rd Micronesian Athletics Championships in December earning her a third monthly title. She won a bronze in the 200m sprint and helped the CNMI's 4x100m relay team to a silver medal finish then placed fourth in the 100m dash.

Johnson, meanwhile, won it back-to-back in March and April. Her exploits in the FINA World Championships in Melbourne, Australia, earned her the March crown where she achieved six lifetime best times in all six events she competed in while at the same time setting a new CNMI National record in the 200m freestyle.

She made it two straight when she won again in April after her first place finish in the 13-14 age division of the Saipan Ocean Swim.

In the Male Student Athlete of the Year, swimmer Graf and netter Heo lead the cast in the Male Student Athlete of the Year nominees. Graf won the award in March and September while Heo was named in August and November.

Graf swam in six events in the FINA World Championships in Melbourne, Australia where he set five lifetime best swims including a 67-second drop in the 1,500m freestyle event, which is the biggest drop of any swimmer in the competitions.

He again won the monthly crown in September after a personal best 41-minute finish in the 5th Escape From Managaha ocean swim.

Heo, meanwhile, won in August after his powerful stints in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships and Oceania Closed Junior Championships in Lautoka, Fiji. He finished second on the POJC where he went undefeated in pool play where he scored consecutive wins over the top two seeded players.

In the OCJC, Heo stood his ground against the top junior netters from Australia and New Zealand where he started to establish himself as a top caliber player in the Pacific Oceania region.

He was again named in November after winning the 18-and-under division of the Fall Classic Junior Tennis Tournament where he did not drop a single set and game by blanking his opponents.

Three-time monthly winner Jacque Wonenberg of athletics and two-time awardee Thea Minor of tennis will vie for the Female Student Athlete of the Year. Bennett, Johnson, and Ruluked are also nominated in the Female Student Athlete of Year.

Wonenberg won in January, May, and July after her exploits in Australia, Guam, and in Ostrava, Czech Republic where she broke the CNMI National record in the 200m run with a time of 27.74 seconds.

Minor, meanwhile, won in August and in December where she won the 2007 Coca-Cola Waikato Junior Open and finishing in his two more events events that she played at.

Trading places, hoping for wins

The sports news is filled with trade talk.

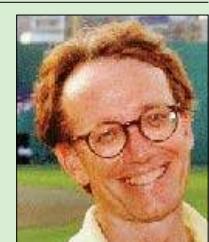
Shaquille O'Neal, one of the biggest stars in the NBA, was traded from the Miami Heat to the Phoenix Suns for all-star forward Shawn Marion and guard Marcus Banks. The Los Angeles Lakers grabbed 7-foot scorer Pau Gasol from the Memphis Grizzlies to help their superstar, Kobe Bryant. And this week, all-star point guard Jason Kidd went from the New Jersey Nets to the Dallas Mavericks.

D.C. United will start the Major League Soccer season with several new faces. Recently the team acquired Quavas Kirk, a 19-year-old midfielder, from the Los Angeles Galaxy.

In baseball, the Baltimore Orioles traded two of their best—pitcher Erik Bedard and shortstop Miguel Tejada—for 10 young prospects. And the Washington Nationals opened spring training wondering if the team will have to trade one of its first basemen—Nick Johnson or Dmitri Young—since both can't play at once.

Trades are a big part of any pro sport. Even though kids who play sports are not traded, they understand trading. You might trade food in the cafeteria ("I'll give you half of my sandwich for your dessert") or make trades in games ("I'll give you New York Avenue if you give me Boardwalk").

Kids understand that when you make a trade you try to get someone or something that will give you or



By FRED BOWEN
Special to
The Washington Post

Bowen is an author of sports novels for kids.

your team a better chance to win.

So how will all the recent big sports trades work out?

I think Shaq is too old and slow, and he gets injured too often, to help the run-and-gun Suns. Phoenix will miss Marion's defensive abilities. He was one of the few Suns capable of shutting down the other team's best scorer.

But Los Angeles and Dallas fans must be super-happy. The Lakers got a real steal in Gasol. With Bryant and Lamar Odom, that's a terrific threesome to challenge the other top teams in the Western Conference. And Kidd, with his great court sense and leadership, might make the Mavericks the team to beat in the playoffs.

It's hard to tell whether the Orioles or the United trades will work out. They went for young players, so it could be years before we know if Kirk is star material in the MLS or if Adam Jones, the hotshot outfielder Baltimore got from Seattle, will play center field for years for the Orioles.

Of course, if the new players don't become stars, maybe they will be traded. Again.